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PIONEER MEDICINE IN  
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



# PIONEER MEDICINE *in* WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

By

THEODORE DILLER, M.D.

AUTHOR OF "WASHINGTON IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA,"  
"FRANKLIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO MEDICINE"

WITH A FOREWORD BY

J. J. BUCHANAN, M.D.

WITH TWENTY-SIX FULL PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS



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NEW YORK · MCMXXVII

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Published May, 1927

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Reprinted, with additions, from  
*Annals of Medical History*  
(Volume VIII, Nos. 2 and 3)

*Printed in the United States of America*

To ADOLPH KOENIG

who in a singularly clear way has realized the  
highest ideals of the medical profession and  
promulgated them through his pupils,  
through the PITTSBURGH MEDICAL RE-  
VIEW, but above all through his simple,  
unselfish and noble life



## PREFACE



HIS little book has grown from an address delivered by the author before the Allegheny County Medical Society on the occasion of the celebration of its sixtieth anniversary in 1925. The history of medicine in Western Pennsylvania is closely bound up with the history of the country; and in the early days there was a remarkably intimate relationship between medical and military life. Broadly speaking, nearly all the early medical men were military men; and he who reads this book will perceive that over and over again the medical man put aside his scalpel to take up the sword or laid aside the sword to take up his mortar and pestle. It is my hope that this little book will arouse in some medical men, and deepen in others, a love of the history of our guild; for the study of history is not merely of antiquarian interest but has the effect of throwing great light upon the problems of today.

In keeping with the title of the book, I have, in considerable detail, recorded the

## PREFACE

earlier events and portrayed the pioneers in the practice of medicine in Western Pennsylvania; and since it would be foreign to the purpose of this book to record recent events and biographies, these have been treated in a very brief and sketchy way. Roughly speaking, the year 1900 marks the termination of medical history in Western Pennsylvania as recorded in this book; it especially deals with men and events prior to 1850. Moreover, it has been my aim to write only of men whose careers are closed; but for the sake of completeness I have been forced to depart from this rule in two or three instances.

In the preparation of this little book, I have received assistance from many sources. I wish especially to acknowledge valuable data received from monographs of Drs. T. D. Davis and Clement R. Jones, and from Drs. Buchanan, Gaub and Koenig and Mr. C. S. Howell. Most of the excellent portraits which illustrate these pages were made by Dr. Jay Crawford, of the firm of Shaler and Crawford.

THEODORE DILLER

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

April 15, 1927

## FOREWORD



O comply with the flattering request of the author of this work that I write a "Foreword" is a pleasure. Moreover, it seems appropriate that this small word should be written by one who has been for sixty years, as boy and man, a close observer of the doings of doctors in this part of the state.

This is said only to establish my fitness to pronounce on the accuracy of the biographical and historical facts recorded in the latter part of this work. To the veracity of this history as far as recollection serves, I am willing to attest, and this recollection extends to a time long before Ninth Street ceased to be called Hand and Seventh Street, Irwin; and before Gazzam's hill failed of recognition by the passer-by.

Dr. Diller has been most fortunate in the field of his research; that he has been diligent in the cultivation of this field will be

## FOREWORD

evident to the most casual reader. He has seized the tragic and thrilling episodes which marked the early history of this region and has shown how much the medical profession had to do with the stirring events of that early time.

He has not failed to emphasize the greatness, the simplicity and the humanity of our early physicians and, with a facile pen, has shown how keenly he is alive to a touch of humor.

Horace Walpole once said that an editor should not dwell for any great length on the merits of his author; and, therefore, perhaps I should not overpraise (which would be difficult) the masterly treatment of his subject by Dr. Diller; and so I will be content to leave this matter to the judgment of the candid reader.

J. J. BUCHANAN

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

*April, 1927*

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# PIONEER MEDICINE

## IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

### I

#### INTRODUCTION



HE story of medicine west of the Allegheny Mountains begins with the French occupation at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers at Pittsburgh. Contest between the English and French for supremacy of the Mississippi Valley was inevitable. Contrecoeur brought a party of Canadians and Indians to the mouth of the Allegheny on April 27, 1754, driving out Ensign Ward, who under English direction was attempting to build a fort there. Contrecoeur erected a fort which he called Duquesne after the governor-general of Canada. The next year the English General

Braddock, with a large force, which included Washington and Dr. James Craik, marched against Fort Duquesne. He crossed the Monongahela river at what is now Kennywood Park, near Pittsburgh, and entered what seemed a quiet forest but which was alive with French and Indians. Here Braddock suffered a disastrous defeat and was himself wounded and carried to the rear amid the rattle of musketry and the death yell of the savages. The services of Dr. James Craik, the eminent surgeon-in-chief of the English expedition, and his assistants were in immediate requisition.

Braddock's defeat left the whole western country exposed to the ravages of the Indians; the French forces were supreme in their command of the headwaters of the Ohio river at Fort Duquesne. Three years later, 1758, General John Forbes attempted to do what Braddock had failed to do, viz., take Fort Duquesne and drive the French out of the country, and guard the white inhabitants against the depredations of the Indians. It will thus be seen that upon the successful outcome of the Forbes expedition high hopes were placed. Forbes himself was a sick man and was carried most of the way

## INTRODUCTION

on a litter. In anticipation, it may be said now that soon after his return to Philadelphia he died; his body is now buried with suitable inscription in old Christ Church.

The French, when Forbes had reached within a few miles of them, burned and abandoned Fort Duquesne and floated in their batteaux down the river, deeming their force inadequate to resist him successfully. When Forbes marched into the ruins of the burned and blown-up fort, November 25, 1758, he was accompanied by his military surgeons as well as by several other medical men numbered among his officers of regiments, battalions and provincial troops.

The forces raised in Pennsylvania for the Forbes expedition against Fort Duquesne in 1758, called a regiment, were in three battalions, the general officers being Brevet Lieutenant Colonel John Shippen (son of Edward Shippen of Lancaster); commissary of the musters and paymaster, James Young; surgeon, Dr. Bond; chaplain, Rev. Thomas Barton, Church of England minister at Lancaster, rector of St. James Church; wagon master, Robert Irwin, and deputy wagon master, Mordecai Thompson of Chester County.

The First Battalion was commanded by Col. John Armstrong, leader of the Kittanning Expedition; Lieutenant-Colonel Hance Hamilton of York; Major Jacob Orndt; Surgeon Blain; chaplain, Rev. Charles Beaty (a Presbyterian); adjutant, John Phillip de Haas, and quartermaster, Thomas Sullivan.

The Second Battalion was commanded by Colonel James Burd, a Scotchman by birth, who had married into the Shippen family and lived not far from Harris' Ferry, the present Harrisburg. His lieutenant-colonel was Thomas Lloyd, apparently the physician of that name, great grandson of the former lieutenant-governor; the major was David Jamison; other officers were: surgeon, John Morgan; chaplain, Rev. John Steel (Presbyterian); adjutant, Jacob Kern; quartermaster, Asher Clayton and commissary, Peter Bard. James Hayes took Colonel Burd's company and was wounded at Grant's defeat, Grant's Hill; Samuel Miles of Philadelphia county as lieutenant took Colonel Lloyd's company and was wounded in an attack on French and Indians at Ligonier.

The other companies, apparently, were led by Christian Busse, Joseph Scott,

## INTRODUCTION

Samuel Weiser, Alexander McKee, John Byers, John Haslett, John Singleton and Robert Eastburn. The Third Battalion was commanded by Colonel (Dr.) Hugh Mercer, whose lieutenant-colonel was Patrick Work, the other officers being: Major George Armstrong; surgeon, Robert Bines, chaplain, Rev. Andrew Bay; adjutant, James Ewing; quartermaster, Thomas Hutchins, and sergeant-major, Samuel Culbertson.

Colonel Hugh Mercer was left in charge of Fort Pitt upon Forbes' departure for the east. Mercer was an army colonel, but before that a doctor of medicine. Mercer, the first man in authority at Fort Pitt, a military man and physician, was followed by several others who were also military men and physicians. Indeed it was surprising to the author to learn the large number of men of this sort that he discovered. The first physicians in Pittsburgh were all military men. Dr. Arthur St. Clair, who represented Washington on the western frontier, was a physician; so was Dr. John Connolly, who represented Governor Dunmore. Drs. Edward Hand and William Irvine, two of the commandants at the Fort following Dr. Hugh Mercer, were also

military men. Dr. John Knight, whose heroic adventures with Crawford will ever be remembered, was a military man. Dr. George Stevenson, Dr. Nathaniel Bedford, Dr. Andrew Richardson are names of prominent physicians of Pittsburgh who were military men. Other notable physicians who were possessors of military titles were the following: Drs. David Marchand, Samuel Marchand, Frederick Marchand, Felix Brunot, Frank LeMoyne, John Wishart, Joel Lewis, James King, Cyrus B. King, Silas N. Benham, James McCann and James Bissett Murdoch.

It is very interesting to note that there are several families in which there are physicians in three or more generations and among these may be mentioned the names of Wishart, LeMoyne, Marchand, Mowry, Shaw, Mabon and Gallagher.

Considering the national groups, we find that the early physicians of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh district came from England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany and Switzerland, and that in the early days a great many of them came from Carlisle, more than from any other part of this country.

## INTRODUCTION

There are at least three notable physicians who performed the dual function of minister of religion and practitioner of medicine: Doddridge, Dodd and Jennings. All three appear to have done this well, all three were noble, high-minded men who labored most earnestly for both the souls and bodies of their fellowmen.

One physician, Addison, was the son of Judge Addison; Dr. Agnew was the father of Chief-Judge Agnew; Dr. Edward Gazzam, brother of Dr. Joseph Gazzam, left medicine to study law. Thus it will be seen there was some connection between medicine and law. There have been occasionally, from time to time, physicians who have gone into business, and some of them have returned to medicine. There is a saying: "Once a priest, always a priest." This may be paraphrased: Once a physician, always a physician.

Where there are medical men, there are sure to be medical organizations. The first medical organization of which I find record was the Western Medical Society, which was organized in 1814. This was followed by the Pittsburgh Medical Society in 1821, the Allegheny Medical Society in 1838, the

PIONEER MEDICINE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Nathaniel Bedford Club in 1864, the Allegheny County Medical Society in 1865, the Academy of Medicine in 1888 and the College of Physicians in 1906. A number of smaller medical clubs were also organized, among them the Fortnightly Club, the Austin Flint Club and others.

II

THE EARLIEST MEDICAL MEN OF  
PITTSBURGH

JAMES CRAIK

R. James Craik was born in Scotland, and came to this country with Braddock on his expedition. He was with Washington at the battle of Great Meadows. Braddock himself was wounded in his disastrous engagement against Fort Pitt and carried to the rear, and died July 9, 1755. His wounds were dressed by Dr. Craik, assisted by Drs. Anderson and Calhoun. Washington himself read the burial service from the Book of Common prayer, assisted by Dr. Craik. Later Dr. Craik was appointed to the medical department of the army by General Washington and raised to the position of physician-in-chief. For many years he was Washington's private physician and enjoyed his friendship. He accompanied Washington on his visit to Fort Pitt in 1770 and here he met Dr. John Connolly at

Semple's Tavern. He died in Fairfax County Virginia, in 1814. Washington in his will wrote of Dr. Craik these tender words: "My compatriot in arms, my old familiar friend."

#### HUGH MERCER

Dr. Hugh Mercer was the son of a minister of the Church of Scotland and was born at Aberdeen. He studied at the University in his native town. In 1740 he entered the medical school of Marischal College from which he was graduated in 1744. One year after graduation he became attached to the army of Prince Charles, the Pretender, affectionately called by the Scotch "Bonnie Prince Charlie." He took part in the battle of Culloden in 1745 when the Scotch were disastrously defeated. The next year he took passage for America; and after a short stay in Philadelphia moved westward and settled in a place called Greencastle; Mercersburg is called for him. Here, as a pioneer doctor in the wilderness, he practiced medicine, in this sparsely settled country. It may well be imagined he encountered many adventures and that he was called upon in every possible way, men-



DR. JAMES CRAIK.

WASHINGTON'S PRIVATE PHYSICIAN, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE BRADDOCK EXPEDITION AND ADMINISTERED TO BRADDOCK AFTER HE WAS WOUNDED, AND WHO ATTENDED WASHINGTON IN HIS LAST SICKNESS.



tal and physical, to assist the people among whom he had settled.

The spirit of the soldier in this pioneer doctor asserted itself at the outbreak of the French and Indian war. He entered General Braddock's army as Captain and was present at his defeat in his attempt to take Fort Duquesne. In this engagement Mercer was wounded and left behind. Later, after many hardships, he succeeded in rejoining the army.

The next year he joined the force of Armstrong, who marched against the Indians and their French allies at Kittanning. This expedition did much to save the inhabitants from the depredations of the Indians, to which they were sadly exposed after Braddock's defeat. On this expedition he was stationed at Bridgeport as assistant surgeon to the garrison and practiced among the people. In an engagement against the Indians he was again wounded and again forced to make his way through hundreds of miles of forest alone. On this weary tramp he was forced to live on herbs and roots and for a time maintained himself by devouring the carcass of a rattlesnake. On one occasion he took refuge in a hollow tree while the

Indians were nearby. Finally, after many perils, he reached Will's Creek, since called Fort Cumberland.

For his services under Braddock and Armstrong Mercer received in 1756 from the corporation of Philadelphia a vote of thanks and a memorial medal. The next year, 1757, Mercer was in command of the garrison at Shippensburg; December of that year he was promoted to the rank of major-general and placed in command of all the forces in the province of Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna.

In 1758 Mercer joined the forces of Gen. John Forbes in the expedition against Fort Duquesne, this being his third military excursion to Western Pennsylvania. As is known to all students of history, with the approach of General Forbes' army within a few miles of the Fort, the French set fire to the Fort, abandoned it and floated in batteaux down the river. The victorious troops under Forbes took possession. The British flag was at once raised and the place, in honor of the great premier of England, called Fort Pitt and later Pittsburgh.

Leaving Mercer in charge of the fort with two hundred men, Forbes marched eastward



HUGH MERCER

A COUNTRY DOCTOR IN PENNSYLVANIA, THE FIRST PHYSICIAN TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN PITTSBURGH.



and, a few weeks after arriving in Philadelphia, died. So it is seen that the first man in official authority at the very beginning of the town of Pittsburgh was a doctor, Hugh Mercer, a man of the highest character who was an ornament to two professions, that of arms and that of medicine.

Left in the smoldering remains of the French fort with two hundred men, subject to attack by the Indians and by the returning French, the hero of Culloden, of Braddock's Field and Armstrong's expedition, and the pioneer physician of Franklin County, was undaunted; he carried on his task until the temporary fort was completed, January, 1759, which sufficed for the purpose of his small force until he was relieved the next year by General Stanwix. The latter demolished this temporary fort and built in its place a very substantial and costly one which endured until 1791.

Soon after the termination of the French and Indian war, Mercer moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia, and resumed the practice of medicine. His residence for a number of years was a two-story frame house on the corner of Princess Ann and Amelia Streets. To visiting automobilists this house is still

pointed out. Soon after he settled in Fredericksburg he married Isabella Gordon of that town, by whom he had one daughter and four sons. Here he became the friend and companion of John Paul Jones, who also was living in this quiet Virginia town, a lieutenant in the Continental Navy. Doubtless these two illustrious heroes talked over matters of the old home land, exchanging many a tale of adventure.

In 1784 an English traveller published an account of a visit he had made to Fredericksburg during the Revolutionary War. He says: "I arrived in Fredericksburg and put up at an inn kept by one Weedon, who is now a general officer in the American army and who was then very active and zealous in blowing the flames of sedition. In Fredericksburg, I called upon a worthy and intimate friend, Dr. Hugh Mercer, a physician of great eminence and merit, and as a man, possessed of almost every virtue and accomplishment. Dr. Mercer was afterwards a Brigadier-General of the American army, to accept which appointment, I have reason to believe, he was greatly influenced by General Washington, with whom he had long been in intimacy and bonds of friend-

ship. For Dr. Mercer was generally of a just and moderate way of thinking and possessed of liberal sentiments and a generosity of principle very uncommon among those with whom he embarked."

The inn to which he referred is the Rising Sun Tavern which stands on upper Main Street. Weedon, who was said to have been actively engaged in blowing the flames of sedition, was a brother-in-law of Mercer. This loyal son of Britain and admirer of Hugh Mercer was severe on anything that appeared to him to be disloyalty.

Living in the quiet town of Fredericksburg, Mercer pursued his duties of country doctor. He was welcomed at hospitable homes and often found time for social diversions. He was a member of Lodge 4, A.F. A.M., of which Washington was also a member, and he occasionally made visits to the home of Washington at Mt. Vernon.

With the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the military man in Mercer once more submerged the medical man, and he actively engaged himself in drilling troops; he became a colonel of the 3rd Virginia Continentals, and June 8, 1776, he was promoted to be brigadier-general in recogni-

tion of distinguished services. He was with Washington at the battle of Princeton. Here he received seven bayonet wounds and was struck on the head with the butt of a musket. He was removed to a nearby farmhouse where he was tenderly cared for by the wife and daughter of the owner of the farm and by Major Lewis, who had been sent to his aid by General Washington. Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia and Dr. Archibald Alexander of Virginia rendered the wounded man all possible medical and surgical assistance but he succumbed to his wounds, January 12, 1777. He was buried in Christ Churchyard, Philadelphia, and many years later his body was removed to Laurel Hill Cemetery where a monument was erected to his memory by the St. Andrew's Society, of which he had been a member since 1757. This monument was dedicated in 1840: and upon it are engraved these words: "General Mercer, Physician, Fredericksburg, Va. Distinguished for his skill and learning, his gentleness and decision, his refinement and humanity."

Soon after his death a monument to his memory was recommended to be erected at Fredericksburg, Virginia, and June 28, 1902, an act was passed by Congress that this

resolution of Congress of 1777 be carried into effect. A splendid monument has in recent years been erected at Princeton to the memory of Mercer and is an inspiration to many hundreds of students in this great college. Besides these monuments, our hero's name is perpetuated in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, now the seat of a great boys' school, the town and county of Mercer, Pennsylvania, and Mercer County, New Jersey, in which Princeton is located.

There is a fine portrait of Mercer in the possession of the Mercersburg Academy and a fine historical painting of the battle of Princeton by Peale is to be seen at Princeton, painted by Trumbull of New York.

Such is the picture of the first man in command of Pittsburgh, the first physician to practice medicine in this place. While it is true that Mercer's official position was that of a military character, yet we must suppose that he practiced medicine while in command at Fort Pitt, for we have no account of any other doctor in the fort and we do know from the records there were several deaths and a number of cases of illness there during the time Mercer was in charge. No other theory is plausible than that Mercer exercised his office of physician.

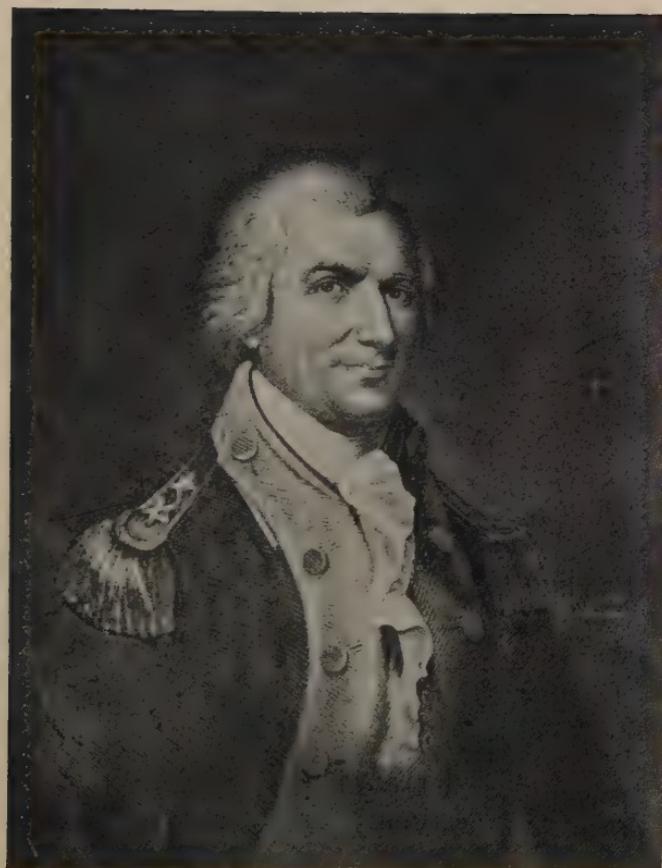
## ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Arthur St. Clair is another example of a man with the education of a physician who laid aside the work of a doctor to take up that of arms. St. Clair was born in Scotland but came to this country as quite a young man. He made a speech at the opening of the courthouse at Hannistown, capital of Westmoreland County. He contended against John Connolly in 1773, causing his arrest, and later he suffered a disastrous defeat by the Indians. By Washington he was made governor of Ohio. In his old age he returned to live near his old home in Ligonier. He died a very old man in great poverty.

Dr. Thomas St. Clair, of Indiana County, grandson of Arthur St. Clair, was graduated from Jefferson College in 1847 and was the first physician to perform a successful ovariotomy in Western Pennsylvania. Altogether he performed this operation eleven times, in three of which he was assisted by his nephew, Dr. John M. St. Clair of Indiana, Pennsylvania; of these three operations, two resulted in recovery.

## JOHN CONNOLLY

I must now introduce a physician who by many is considered a bad character, a



GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

DR. ST. CLAIR OPPOSED DR. JOHN CONNOLLY IN HIS ATTEMPT  
TO MAKE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PART OF VIRGINIA.



conclusion which might be questioned. But certainly his career was most picturesque and interesting; he cut an important figure in Pittsburgh in the early days, and although he figures as a political character rather than a physician, it seems proper that a brief reference to his career should be recorded in this history. Dr. Connolly wrote quite an extended biography of himself.

In this biography he states: "I was born in America of respectable parents and received as perfect an education as the country could afford. In the early part of my life I was bred to physic, the practice of which it was intended I should pursue; my natural bent of mind, however, determined otherwise. It was my ambition to be a soldier." Dr. Connolly is said to have studied medicine with Dr. Cadwalader Evans of Philadelphia, and whether or not he was entitled to a medical degree, it appears he was commonly called Dr. Connolly.

It will be recalled that Dr. John Connolly is mentioned as stopping at Semple's Inn with Washington in 1770 on his visit to the Fort. He married the landlord's daughter. Whether he made love to her on this occasion is not known. One account states that he was at this time the husband of Semple's

daughter. He had explored extensively along the Cumberland River and delighted Washington with the glowing accounts which he gave of that locality. He also interested Lord Dunmore, governor of Virginia, in this country. Dunmore was loyal to the British crown all through his career and was desirous of claiming for Virginia all the land that he possibly could.

The boundary dispute was an old one, dating back to 1752. It now became acute. Directed by his master, Lord Dunmore, Connolly appeared at the county seat, Hannistown (two or three miles from Greensburg), and in high-handed manner declared the country part of Virginia. Oddly enough, Dr. Connolly was by order of another doctor of medicine, namely, General Arthur St. Clair, arrested. But he was soon released on bail, and hurrying to Stanton, Virginia, he was sworn in as justice of the peace. Armed with this authority, he returned to Hannistown, threw a cordon of soldiers about the courthouse and forbade the magistrates to sit and hold court.

Connolly tyrannized and abused the inhabitants in outrageous fashion. He renamed Fort Pitt (which in 1772 had fallen into sad decay under General Gage) Fort

Dunmore. A number of manifestos and letters were dated Fort Dunmore. In 1774 Lord Dunmore himself passed through Fort Pitt on his way down the Ohio to cooperate with General Lewis against the Indians, who at that time were very troublesome.

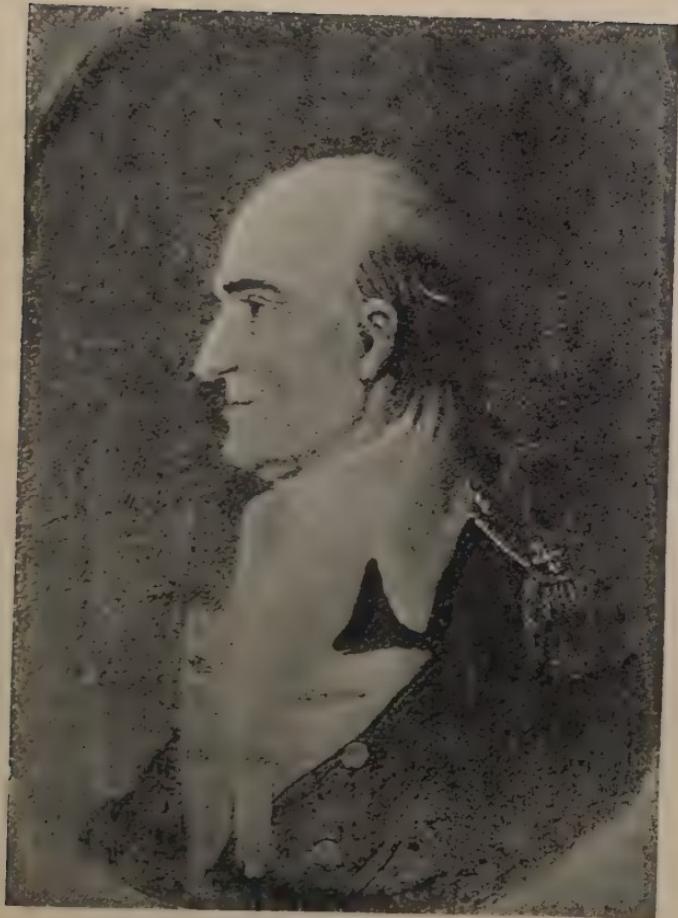
But the events of the Revolutionary War were marching rapidly on and by 1775 Dr. Connolly was forced to leave. Soon after, with his loyal master, Lord Dunmore, he boarded a British ship and sailed from these shores for England.

After the departure of Dr. Connolly, Captain John Neville, who was destined in 1794 to cut a conspicuous figure during the Whiskey Insurrection (being at that time excise officer under Washington) was ordered from Virginia to Fort Pitt, where he took possession with one hundred men. He remained on the ground until 1777 when he was relieved by General Edward Hand, who was also a physician.

#### EDWARD HAND

Edward Hand came to this country in 1774 with the 18th Royal Irish regiment. But soon after his arrival in America he espoused the cause of the Colonists and the next year received a commission in the Continental Army.

Dr. Hand started the practice of medicine in Lancaster in 1775. He knew and met Washington many times. Soon he gave up the practice of medicine to take up the profession of arms. In 1776 he was ordered to proceed to Pittsburgh from Bedford, with fifty men and stores for the relief of Fort Pitt. He arrived there and took command in January, 1777. At this time he held the rank of adjutant-general. General Hand remained here until May 26, 1778, when he was succeeded by General MacIntosh. He made a number of reports and wrote a number of letters while here in Pittsburgh as a military man. Yet we have evidence that he practiced medicine also, for two missionaries, passing through Pittsburgh, recorded in the diary of one of them: "Mr. Frisbee, unwell, Dr. Hand, a surgeon of the British Army, very attentively and gratuitously attended him during his sickness." In 1778, Hand commanded troops at Albany and the next year joined Sullivan's expedition which marched against the Indians in the Wyoming Valley. Here he suffered hardship and danger and rendered great service to the country. Congress, with Washington, agreed it was the most brilliant event of the year. In 1782 Hand was made major-general.



BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND, M.D.



After the war, Hand returned to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he resided until his death in 1802. Here he not only practiced medicine but took an active part in the affairs of the town, and in 1784-1785 he represented the district in Congress. He married and became the father of several children born in Lancaster, some before and some after the Revolutionary War. He became a member of the vestry of old St. James Church. The minutes of the church show that he was regular in his attendance of the meetings of this body. General Hand's body lies in the quaint old churchyard of St. James, marked by a simple, dignified monument which may be readily seen from the street by passers-by.

Hand Street, Pittsburgh, now Ninth Street, recalls to mind our hero.

WILLIAM IRVINE<sup>1</sup>

In 1781, General Brodhead was succeeded by General William Irvine as commandant at the Fort, where he remained two years, during which time he much improved and strengthened it. In Irvine we have once more

<sup>1</sup>Sometimes spelled Irwine.

the combination of the military and the medical man. Irvine studied medicine in the famous college of Dublin under the celebrated Dr. Cleghorn and for a period of seven years acted as surgeon on a British man-of-war. Soon after the conclusion of peace, he practiced medicine in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Here, despite manners habitually reserved and austere, by his diligence and skill he won for himself the general confidence of the public and built up a fine practice. His brother, Matthew, was a surgeon with Lee's Legions. At the time he took command of Fort Pitt he was forty years of age. He was now a seasoned warrior for he had been through the Revolutionary War. He was at the head of the troops of Pennsylvania in the Whiskey Insurrection. After serving in Pittsburgh he removed to Philadelphia and here he was made president of the Society of Cincinnati.

During Irvine's command of Fort Pitt, the last battle of the Revolutionary War in this section was fought, July 13, 1782. Colonel Crawford, who had been routed by the British and Indians at Sandusky, in June encountered a force of Indians under Guyasuta, the well-known chief, and in this



BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE.  
COMMANDANT AT FORT PITTS FROM 1781 TO 1783.



campaign Hannistown, the county seat, was burned—all but two homes. Two Indians were killed and the inhabitants lost one girl. Hannistown was never rebuilt; and after a year the courts were removed to Greensburg, which continued as the Westmoreland County Seat until 1788, when Allegheny County was carved from it of which Pittsburgh was made the county seat.

General Irvine was twice a member of Congress. He died in 1804 at the age of sixty-four. A grandson, W. W. Irvine, practiced in Warren County and a street in Pittsburgh bears his name.

#### JOHN KNIGHT

Dr. John Knight settled in Fayette County at a very early date. In 1776 he enlisted from West Augusta (then part of Virginia by force of Connolly) as a private soldier. Afterwards he was appointed surgeon's mate in the 9th Virginia Regiment. On August 9, 1778, he was appointed surgeon of the 7th Pennsylvania Regiment and stationed at Fort Pitt on the recommendation of General Irvine. In 1782 Colonel W. Crawford, an old friend and boyhood companion of Washington, organized an

expedition against the Indians in the northern part of Ohio. At this time, Knight accepted Crawford's invitation to accompany him as surgeon of the expedition. This expedition resulted very disastrously, Crawford was taken by the Indians and burned at the stake, Dr. Knight being compelled to witness it. After the burning, Dr. Knight, whose face had been blackened, was sent ahead with one powerful Indian. The mosquitoes were bad and to escape them the Indian released Knight and ordered him to brush away the pests while he prepared supper. This was Knight's chance; and seizing a heavy club he struck the Indian a blow on the head and escaped. He reached Fort Pitt only after many days of incredible suffering. Dr. Knight died at Shelbyville, Kentucky, in 1838.

#### JOHN ROSE

Another physician who accompanied the Crawford expedition was Dr. John Rose, as he was known in this country, but whose true name was Henri-Gustave Rosenthal. Having fought a duel, he fled from his native country, changed his name and rose to distinction by his bravery and talent.

## EARLIEST MEDICAL MEN OF PITTSBURGH

Receiving immunity from his sovereign, he returned to Europe in 1784.

### SOME OF THE EARLY PHYSICIANS AT FORT PITT

As has been pointed out before, General Stanwix relieved Colonel Hugh Mercer at Fort Pitt in 1759 and destroyed the temporary structure Mercer had erected. Following Stanwix there were a number of commanders in charge of Fort Pitt, several of whom we shall mention.

Ecuyer, who was in charge of the Fort in 1763, the year of the Pontiac conspiracy and of the Bushy Run battle, states that Dr. Boyd was in the Fort October 17, 1765, and "that he built a hospital under the draw bridge." Why was the hospital built in this position? Was it because of the protection the bridge afforded or that the water offered convenient opportunity for cleanliness?

Dr. McKenzie was the principal surgeon at Fort Pitt in 1788. Dr. Adams was there from 1794 to 1797 and Dr. Wilkins from 1795 to 1796.

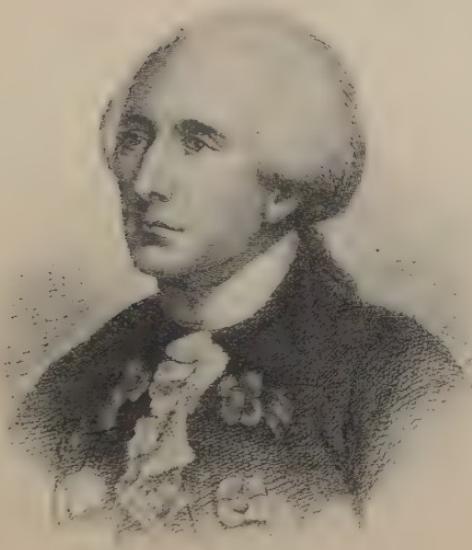
### JOHN DAVID SCHOEFF

Dr. John David Schoeff visited Pittsburgh one year after the burning of Hannis-

town, and just about the time Dr. Irvine was retired from Fort Pitt, in the summer of 1787. He was the first person to cross the Allegheny Mountains in a carriage. Dr. Schoeff was attached to the German troops employed by the British in the capacity of surgeon. After the war he spent two years in travelling.

In 1784, Arthur Lee, commissioner to treat with the Indians, passing through Pittsburgh, writes: "There are four attorneys, two doctors, and no priest of any persuasion, neither church nor chapel, so that they are likely to be damned without the benefit of the clergy." He adds: "The place, I believe, will never be very considerable."

The two physicians referred to are Dr. Nathaniel Bedford, and probably Dr. Thomas Parker, as his name appears with Dr. Bedford's in the first list of Trustees of the Pittsburgh Academy, published in the *Pittsburgh Gazette*, March 24, 1787. From his being elected to such an honorable position, we would infer that he had been there for some time and was a man of education. He was secretary of the Board in 1791.



ARTHUR LEE.

IN 1784 ARTHUR LEE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT PITTSBURGH WOULD "NEVER BE VERY CONSIDERABLE."



## NATHANIEL BEDFORD

Dr. Nathaniel Bedford was the first physician to settle permanently in Pittsburgh for the chief and only purpose of practicing medicine as a profession. He was attached to one of the English regiments at the garrison at Fort Pitt sometime prior to 1770 (the *Gazette* of August 26, 1786, states Bedford was here in 1765) for his resignation was announced in that year. Bedford lived for years in a beautiful house on Seventh and Liberty Streets, extending back to Penn Avenue. He affected the style of an English gentleman, had servants, hunting dogs and lived in great luxury for those days. He appears to have been well educated and composed in Latin. Bedford married Jane Ormsby, daughter of John Ormsby, a leading merchant. At her death he inherited a large tract of land from her father. The *Gazette* of 1811 advertised lots for sale by him in Birmingham. It appears he withdrew from practice after his wife's death and married her lady's maid, living across the river on the Southside.

Christmas day, 1779, Red Pole and Blue Jacket, two Indian chiefs, were detained in

Pittsburgh. The former, taken sick, was attended by Dr. Bedford, assisted by Dr. John Carmichael of New Jersey (in the army 1789, resigned 1804). Red Pole died three weeks later and his body was buried in Trinity Churchyard where his grave is marked by a bronze tablet. A few feet from this grave is that of Dr. Nathaniel Bedford; so oddly enough the physician and his red-skinned patient lie side by side in the shadow of the church of which Bedford was a vestryman. Bedford was one of the incorporators of the Pittsburgh Academy, now the University of Pittsburgh, in 1806.

Bedford laid out Birmingham and named Carson Street, after an old friend, a seaman, who was probably a brother of Mrs. James O'Hara. Dr. Bedford died childless in 1818 at the age of sixty-four. His grave was in the front yard of John Nusser at the head of 12th Street, from whence it was removed to the Trinity Churchyard a few years ago.

#### PETER MOWRY

Dr. Peter Mowry was born in Pittsburgh, September 14, 1770. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to Dr. Nathaniel Bed-

ford "to be taught the Science and Art of Medicine and Surgery." Evidently he was well taught for he was a successful practitioner and rose to distinction and eminence. He upheld the dignity of his profession and impressed upon his students the great responsibility of their calling. He advised hospital experience as the best way of becoming a skilled physician. On one occasion he said: "God help the quack, who with little knowledge and much impudence rushes in where conscientious men fear to enter." Dr. Mowry passed all his professional life in Pittsburgh and died at the age of sixty-three. Like his preceptor, Dr. Bedford, he was a vestryman of Trinity Church. He left two sons, William and Bedford, who were physicians, but both of them died in early manhood. So Dr. Mowry's mantle fell upon his nephew, Robert Mowry, who was born in Pittsburgh, December 23, 1813, and read medicine with his uncle. He was graduated from Jefferson College in 1836. In 1876 he was elected president of the State Medical Society. Among his visible monuments is the Allegheny General Hospital, with the foundation of which he was materially concerned. He died March 14, 1895.

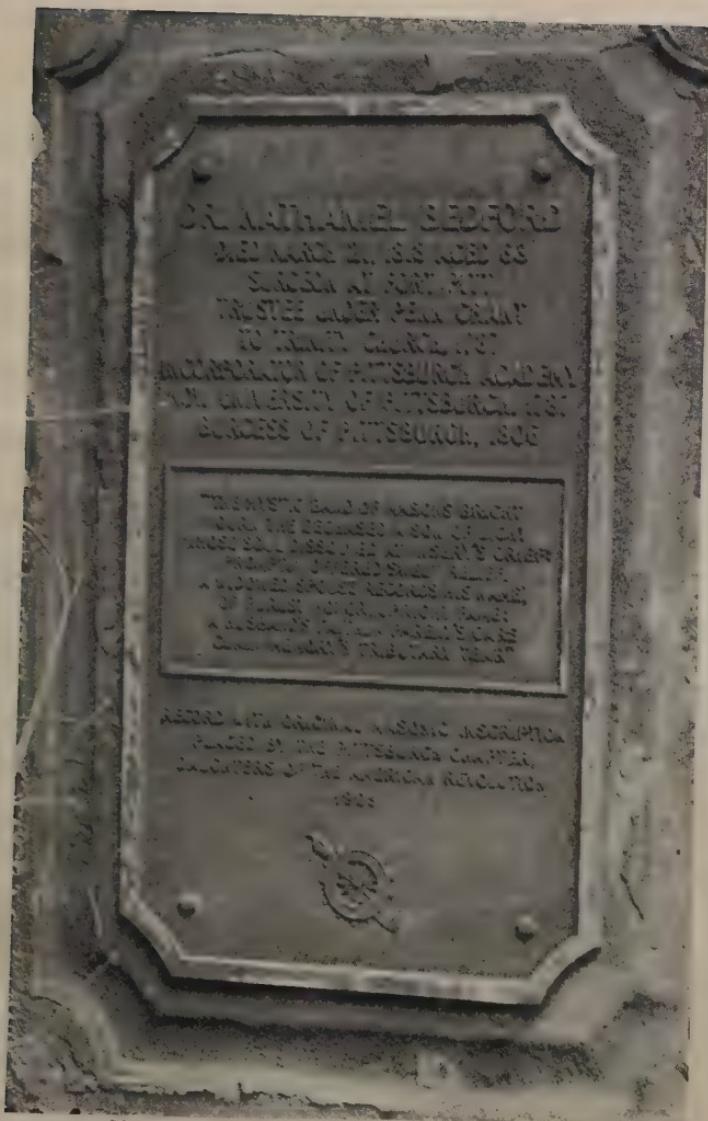
## GEORGE STEVENSON

Dr. George Stevenson was born in New York in 1759. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War he was a student in Carlisle. Here, with teachers and students, he joined the army, saw action at the battle of Brandywine and spent the winter at Valley Forge. During the war he completed his medical education and re-enlisted in the army as surgeon. Later he returned to his home town, Carlisle, and practiced his profession there until 1794. In this year he joined the troops which Washington was sending to Pittsburgh to put down the Whiskey Insurrection. Arriving in this town with the troops, Stevenson was so attracted by the country and the prospects that he resigned from the army and set up an office in Pittsburgh for the practice of medicine, his colleagues being at that time Bedford and Mowry. For many years he was a leading figure in the local affairs of this town, not only as a medical man but also as a conspicuously public spirited and patriotic citizen. He took an active part in the educational and social life of the city.



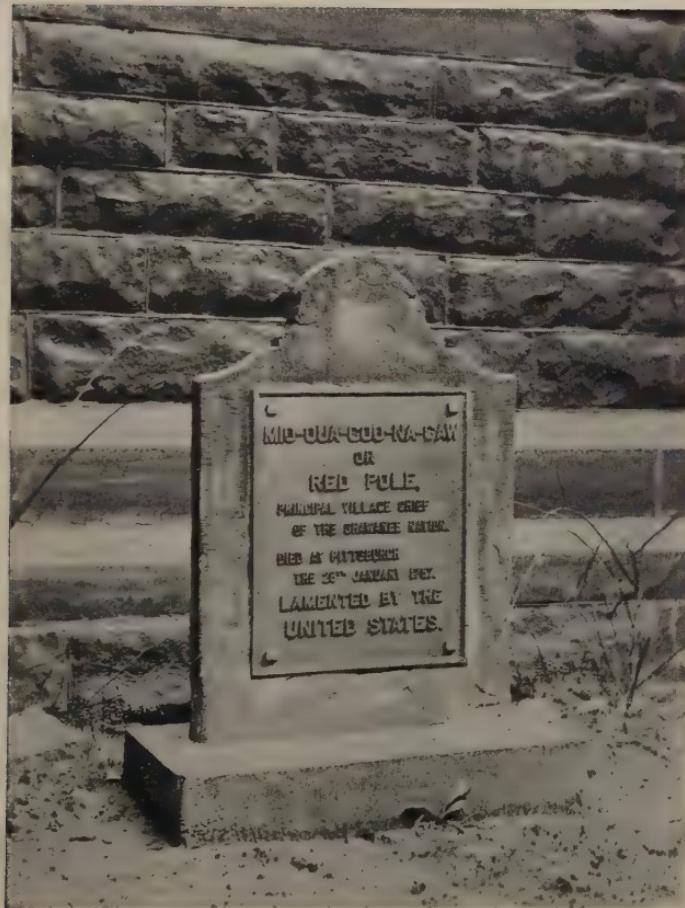
MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF DR. NATHANIEL BEDFORD  
(1754-1818) IN TRINITY CHURCHYARD, PITTSBURGH.





TABLET ON MONUMENT TO DR. NATHANIEL BEDFORD (1754-1818) IN TRINITY CHURCHYARD, PITTSBURGH.





GRAVE OF RED POLE, CLOSE TO THAT OF HIS PHYSICIAN,  
DR. BEDFORD, TRINITY CHURCHYARD, PITTSBURGH.



Dr. Stevenson was elected chief burgess, May 23, 1801. He was one of the original directors of the Western University of Pennsylvania in 1819. In 1825 he returned east and died in Wilmington, Delaware. Dr. Stevenson left two sons, Henry A. of the United States Army and Dr. P. C. Stevenson of Carlisle. In the directory Dr. Stevenson's residence is given as on Penn Avenue, between Hays and Pitt Streets.

#### ANDREW RICHARDSON

Dr. Andrew Richardson began the practice of medicine in Pittsburgh in 1798; so he was a colleague of Bedford, Mowry, Brunot and Stevenson, and among the late eighteenth century physicians of the town. In common with other physicians of his day, Richardson, besides pursuing his profession, engaged in many other activities. At the Fourth of July celebration in 1801 he delivered an animated oration which brought forth great applause. Richardson collected an unusually good medical library for his day, including several works in Latin. Like Bedford he conducted himself in a dignified manner, wore a high collar and stock, and

PIONEER MEDICINE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

carried a gold-headed cane. He was a member of the Trinity Church and like Bedford and Mowry was made vestryman in 1805. He died in 1809, leaving a widow but no children.

### III

#### MEDICAL PRACTICE IN PITTSBURGH IN THE DAYS OF BEDFORD AND MOWRY

**F**Ollowing the custom prevailing in England, young men aspiring to a medical career became apprenticed to a surgeon or physician, just as other young men who aspired to master the various trades. The accounts which have come to us lead us to believe that this apprenticeship was rather a rough and strenuous career; still it made for versatility and resourcefulness. The pioneer physician welcomed a student in his office, for this meant a very substantial help for him. The student's duties were to clean the office, brush the boots and clothing of the doctor and take care of the horse and stable, and he was expected to study the books offered by his preceptor and to assist in operations. He was expected to pull teeth, to bleed and be a sort of junior physician and general handy man. All this before he took a course of lectures in the east. All

medicines were obtained in the crude form and the apprentice ground them in a mortar —no small job. Oftentimes he was subjected to strong odors and fumes which irritated the eyes and nose. He was early taught to cup, bleed and apply leeches which he himself had procured from the neighboring stream. He performed much menial labor, chopping wood, running errands and it is even said "in Philadelphia helped the doctor's good wife with the family washing." As he progressed the apprentice helped his master in surgery, which was often a difficult task in the days before anesthetics. He accompanied the doctor, carrying the lantern by night and the saddle bags by day. After this rather long course of preliminary training at home he crossed the mountains and attended a course of lectures in some medical school. When he returned he was commonly called "Doc" and aspiring mothers regarded him as a desirable catch for their daughters. Then the young doctor opened a "shop" and put out his sign. Very likely he inserted cards in the local newspapers. There are a number of examples of such cards published in the *Pittsburgh Gazette* in the early days.

The careers of the first physicians of Pittsburgh were identical with that of its poorest pioneer. The streets of Pittsburgh were few, crooked and unpaved; there was no sewerage; country roads were mere cow paths, often irregular and misleading. The Indians dogged his footsteps and he was in constant danger of their depredations, to whom it made no difference whether the scalp at their sides was that of a priest, a physician or a trader. As streets were unlighted and the physician might be summoned to the home of one of the prominent citizens or to the hut of a squatter, or to attend an Indian, he must find his way about as best he could. Bedford, Mowry, Stevenson, Brunot and Richardson first made their way about on foot or horseback. Later two-wheeled gigs were introduced which made travelling more tolerable if not exactly comfortable. These pioneers travelled with their saddlebags. Their work was arduous and they travelled far and near; their fees were small, often a mere "thank you" sufficed. But their services were acceptable and the importance of these pioneer physicians was recognized. Their devotion to duty was high. A barbarous

custom, which it appears was rigidly followed, was to give the place of honor to physicians at funerals. So as the procession began its march to the grave, it was headed by the attending physician; and we can only imagine what his emotions were while leading such a procession over rough, muddy roads to the cemetery or graveyard where religious services, not brief in duration, were held.

In the days of Bedford, Mowry, Stevenson, Brunot and Richardson, physicians compounded their own prescriptions, a task which was time-consuming and exacting. The surgeon of today can best appreciate what must have been the handicap of these early physicians in attempting to perform operations when he considers that their instruments were the crudest and simplest and that they were entirely without antiseptics or anesthetics.

## IV

## FRENCH PHYSICIANS

HE names of Marchand, LeMoyné and Brunot stand out very conspicuously in the history of medicine in Western Pennsylvania. It may be doubted whether in the whole annals of American medicine the record of the Marchand family can be equalled or excelled, for its pioneer character, the large number and the sterling worth of the men it contributed to the medical profession. And doubtless even this amazing number of physicians in one family is incomplete, long as it is.

Three generations of LeMoynes made a profound impression upon the history of medicine in Western Pennsylvania.

Dr. Felix Brunot left behind him a distinguished name and his talented and highly honored son, Felix Brunot, found an outlet for his sympathies and talent in directions other than medicine. But may we not infer from the fact that he was widely

known as a philanthropist that he inherited some of his father's instincts?

Thus the names of Marchand, LeMoyne and Brunot are an honor alike to France, America and the medical profession.

#### THE MARCHAND FAMILY<sup>1</sup>

The earliest known ancestor of this family is Jean Marchand, of Sonvillier canton of Berne, Switzerland. The records of that place show the name to be the most common and one of the most ancient there. There is every reason to believe tradition that the original Marchands, of Sonvilliers, were Huguenots and were driven from France at or prior to the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV, October 18, 1685.

David Marchand, son of Dr. David and Judith Marie Marchand, was born in Sonvilliers, May 4, 1746. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Ludwick Kemerer (sometimes called Cameron) and in August, 1770, came to Sewickley Settlement and took up a claim on the little Sewickley Creek, about two miles south of what is now Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County. Here he

<sup>1</sup> The record of the Marchand family is taken from Jordan, J. J., LL.D. History of Westmoreland County.

erected a substantial double log cabin dwelling, in which was conducted a school for the children of the Settlement and which was also used for religious services. He practiced his profession of medicine continuously and during the Revolutionary War began the erection of a stone hospital, albeit frequently interrupted by Indian raids. The building, being stout with windows heavily grated, was frequently used as a fort or stronghold. The walls are still standing. It was undoubtedly the first hospital west of the Allegheny Mountains and Dr. Marchand appears to have been the first physician outside of Pittsburgh to make a permanent location in the west. He died July 22, 1809 and his widow died in 1817, both being buried in the cemetery of the Reformed Church near Adamsburg. Their children were eight in number, three of whom were physicians, Daniel, David and Lewis Marchand. The first son, Daniel, practiced in Uniontown; the second practiced elsewhere in Western Pennsylvania. A grandson, William K. Marchand, died in Greensburg and another grandson, John Irwin Marchand, practiced in West Newton and afterwards in Pittsburgh. Another grandson, Benjamin

Rush Marchand, practiced medicine in this section, as did N. D. Marchand. Other medical practitioners of this family were Lewis, George W., Thomas S., Samuel Sackett Marchand, James I. Marchand, John Louis Marchand, Frederick Marchand and Jacob Marchand.

#### FELIX BRUNOT

Dr. Felix Brunot, born in 1752, was a surgeon of high distinction who came to America with the French troops, serving in the medical corps under his foster brother, General Lafayette. He continued in this relationship until the close of the Revolutionary War, participating in all the engagements in which his illustrious chief took part both as surgeon and soldier.

Brunot began the practice of medicine in Philadelphia but removed to Pittsburgh in 1797, where he lived to the age of eighty-four and died in 1836. When he began the practice of medicine here, Drs. Bedford, Mowry, Richardson and Stevenson were among his colleagues. Like these colleagues, Brunot distinguished himself not only as a physician, but as a public spirited citizen. He is said to have been the first physician in

Pittsburgh to employ electricity in the treatment of disease. His name is perpetuated by an island in the Ohio river which he purchased and where he lived and died.

Dr. Brunot's son, Hon. Felix R. Brunot, became a wealthy man, an outstanding figure in this community, a philanthropist of most generous impulses. His labors on behalf of the Indians were recognized by several presidents of the United States by important official appointments.

#### DR. JOHN JULIUS LEMOYNE DE VILLIERS

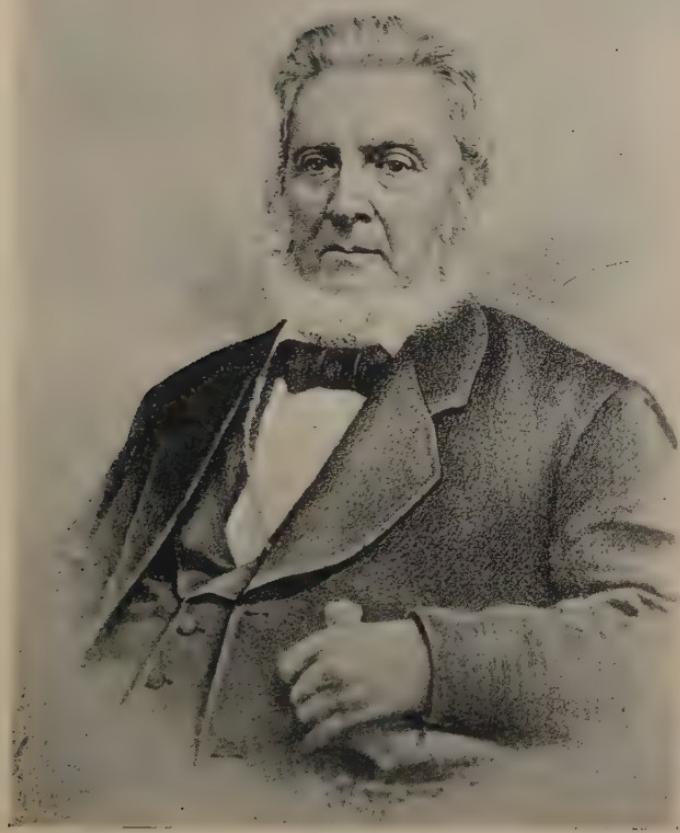
Dr. John Julius LeMoyne was born near Paris in 1760, the son of a physician. Like the early pioneer physicians of Pittsburgh, Dr. LeMoyne received a careful and prolonged medical education and enjoyed the best opportunities which the Paris of that day afforded. He went through a course of seven years' study including hospital service. He began the practice of medicine in Paris and was present at the storming of the Bastille, being borne along with the crowd against his will. Joining a party of families of distinction, he fled from the cruelty of the French Revolution. He was shipwrecked on his way to this country but

finally landed safely after losing most of his clothing, books and instruments.

On reaching this country, Dr. LeMoyne joined some French settlers at Gallipolis on the Ohio River. He moved to Washington, Pennsylvania, in 1797, where he settled in the practice of medicine and lived the remainder of his life, dying in 1848. In Washington he married Nancy, daughter of Francis McCully. Dr. LeMoyne was an accomplished scholar. Besides practicing medicine he took part in the affairs of the community. He accumulated a very considerable library for those days, which contained valuable books on chemistry and botany of which he was fond. His love of flowers and gardening was probably inherited from his father, who was in charge of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris.

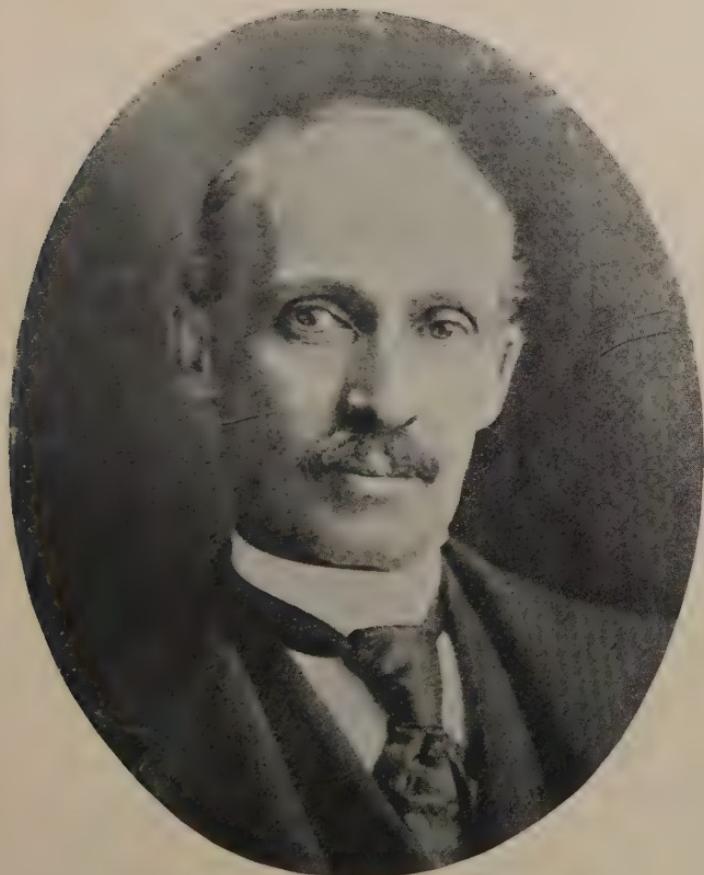
#### FRANCIS JULIUS LEMOYNE

One year after their marriage, Mrs. LeMoyne bore a son, Francis Julius LeMoyne, this being the only child of the union. Dr. Francis LeMoyne was graduated from Washington College in the class of 1815 at the age of seventeen. He studied medicine in Philadelphia and became a



DR. FRANCIS JULIUS LEMOINE.  
SON OF DR. JOHN JULIUS LEMOINE DE VILLIERS (1798-1879).





DR. FRANK J. LEMOYNE.  
SON OF DR. FRANCIS JULIUS LEMOYNE (1839-1913).



notable figure in the community both as a physician and a man of affairs. He was a staunch defender of the negro race, ran for Governor on the Abolitionist ticket, and Vice President of the United States. He also belonged to the Underground Railway, which helped many runaway slaves to escape. He gave \$10,000 to start the first library in Washington, Pennsylvania, and \$60,000 to a colored school in Memphis. He gave Washington and Jefferson College \$40,000 to found a chair of agriculture. He became the leading advocate of cremation and was the pioneer in this field. He erected the first crematory in America. Like his father he reached a good old age, dying in Washington in 1879 at the age of eighty-one.

#### FRANK J. LEMOYNE

Dr. Frank J. LeMoyné, son of Francis Julius LeMoyné, was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, 1839. He entered the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania and immediately upon graduation entered the medical corps of the army. He was in the field and saw active service during the Civil War and was promoted through the various ranks to surgeon-in-chief, Second Brigade, Second Cavalry Division,

Army of the Potomac. He was made lieutenant-colonel for conspicuous gallantry in action. After the war he practiced medicine for many years in Pittsburgh, occupying a place of leadership. He was one of the founders of the Children's Hospital, surgeon of the West Penn Hospital, chairman of the Water Commission and one of the trustees of the Magee Hospital. He died December 1, 1913.

## V

## THREE NOTABLE PARSON PHYSICIANS

JOSEPH DODDRIDGE

HE fullest biography extant of all the pioneer doctors is that of Rev. Dr. Joseph Doddridge. He was born in Bedford, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1769. His parents moved to Washington County near the West Virginia line in the spring of 1773. His father was a Wesleyan Methodist and shortly after arriving built, on his own farm, a house to be used for divine worship and also for a school. This was for a long time known as Doddridge's Chapel. It was near Independence, Washington County. Joseph went to school in Maryland, but returned in a few years to work on the farm. At nineteen he was a traveling Methodist preacher with the noted Francis Asbury. In 1791 his father died and the care of the family and the farm fell upon him and he therefore had to stop preaching. His desire for learning continued and he and his brother Philip (after-

wards a noted jurist and member of Congress of Wellsburg, Virginia) studied at home. Working hard on the farm and in the woods all day, they spent the evening poring over books in the dim light of the fire. These two boys entered Jefferson Academy in 1791, and a classmate extols their talents in the highest terms. In 1792 Dr. Doddridge was admitted to the Order of Deacons by Bishop White, in Philadelphia, probably while he was studying medicine and completing his course with Dr. Rush, and he was by the same prelate ordained priest in 1800. He was under the necessity of combining his clerical profession and that of medicine in order to obtain support. His amiable wife used to say when speaking of this early period: "He was too poor to buy a suit of clothes and when Saturday afternoon came he was obliged to remain incognito while she adjusted and mended his clothes for his appearance in the pulpit on Sunday, knee breeches and long stockings being then in vogue. Dr. Doddridge founded more than twenty Episcopal churches in Western Pennsylvania, Virginia and Eastern Ohio. In vain he frequently besought Bishop White to place a Suffragan Bishop in

### THREE PARSON PHYSICIANS

Western Pennsylvania. He lamented that for lack of a bishop the Episcopal Church was losing in her membership.

Both as a priest and a physician, Dr. Doddridge became eminently successful and deservedly popular, and by this means was enabled to educate a large family of children. In later years the Medical Surgical Society of Eastern Ohio elected him honorary member, "Said Society being well convinced of his ability and scientific skill." The writer sending this announcement says: "I do not know, my dear brother, that the accompanying certificate will be acceptable to thee, yet it may at some future day serve to remind thee of the high esteem in which thee is held by such of thy medical brethren as had best opportunity of judging of thy professional and moral worth." Signed Anderson Judkins, 1st day, 12th month, 1812. He was also elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. He was a fine conversationalist, fond of society, cheerful and industrious, temperate and domestic.

Dr. Doddridge was accustomed to rise at four o'clock in the morning and set apart these early morning hours for his devotions

and literature. The medical profession and the whole country is indebted to him for the well-known book he left, "Doddridge's Notes." In it are many quaint descriptions of the early life, manners and customs of these sturdy pioneers. He reached only his fifty-eighth year of age, dying November 8, 1826, at his home, Wellsburg, Virginia, now West Virginia, where he had gone for his health.

We get a glimpse of the primitive manner of the pioneer living in his description of his first trip east when a boy. "The tavern at which my uncle put up in Bedford was a stone house and to make the change still more complete was plastered inside as to the walls and ceilings. On going into the dining room I was struck with astonishment at the appearance of the house. I had no idea there was any house in the world not built with logs, but here I looked around and could see no logs. I had not the courage to inquire anything about it. When supper came on my 'confusion was worse confounded.' A little cup stood in a bigger one with some brownish looking stuff in it that was neither milk, hominy nor broth. What to do with these little cups and the

little spoons belonging to them I could not tell and was afraid to ask. Accustomed to pewter dishes, plates and spoons, gourds and wooden bowls, mush, hominy and maple molasses—a genuine backwoodsman would have thought himself disgraced by showing a fondness for these slops."

Doddridge's Notes, now rare and out of print, may be considered a classic. They are written clearly and simply; the reader receives the impression that they are honest and are accurate and that the writer is a keen observer, discriminating, kindly, friendly and reliable. Aside from their intrinsic worth there is a certain literary charm about the notes which makes them delightful. They reveal a well-balanced, penetrating and scientific type of mind, a man who deeply loved his fellow man. Believing this I make no apology for introducing at this place a considerable number of Doddridge's Notes.

Doddridge was a true naturalist, a lover of Nature, of man, beast, plant and tree. For instance he found much relaxation in the culture of bees; his garden and orchard were both well cultivated. As against the common brutal instinct, he would not kill,

nor permit to be killed, any of the birds on his grounds. In 1813 he published a treatise on "Culture of Bees" in which he gives an intimate description of his apiary and tells all his plans for handling bees, which included that of colonizing instead of killing them to procure the fruit of their labor.

Besides his treatise on bees, Doddridge wrote an article entitled "Logan, the Last of the Race of Skikellimus," and in 1825 he commenced a piece called "The Russian Spy," strictures on America, and an Indian novel, neither of which was completed.

After a long illness, Doddridge died in November, 1826, in the fifty-eighth year of his age, in Wellsburg, Brooks County, West Virginia. He was the father of twelve children, eight of whom survived him. Some insight into the character of the man is so well revealed in two letters written by him that I quote them in this place:

Wellsburg, June 4, 1822.

My Dear Son: It is now early in the morning, and I am pleasantly situated in the bower, which has been removed from the spread apple tree to the saloon—an oblong grass plot, studded on each side by a row of large fruit trees—at the

request of your excellent mother, who often has tea and sometimes dinner set in it. She has just risen from a night's repose, looks young and joyous as a girl of eighteen. She is engaged in talking to the gardener, and is feeding about fifty chickens, which are thanking her for her munificence, in their noisy, gabbling way.

Many changes have been made here since you left us, an account of which will no doubt be acceptable to you. The foundery lot is at present a first rate garden, mostly planted in vegetables. The old garden is enclosed in a close fence, six feet high, and finished with a coping. I have made a flower garden for Susan. It is tastefully laid out in circular beds and if well taken care of, and stocked with flowering shrubs and plants, will in a few years present a fine parterre of variegated beauty. Gardener as I have always been, Susan is the only one of my family who manifests a taste for this delightful employment; in addition to which I strongly suspect she is to be my prettiest daughter.

The bees have all been removed to the new bee house, which stands on the northeast lot below the turnpike. It is twenty feet long and eight feet wide, of brick, and plastered inside and out, with a circular dome above. The family vault is of the same dimensions.

I am at present much amused with the playful gambols of some squirrels which are frisking

about, sometimes on the trees, sometimes on the ground. About a month ago, I made a den for some of these little animals, into which I put two pair. They now seem well satisfied, but will they stay or decamp after some time? I am a republican, and like pets but not prisoners. I do not like to see a bird in a cage, or an animal tied by the neck.

Joseph is still at the seminary, and doing well. He is much beloved by his teacher and fellow students. It is my wish to make him a finished scholar.

Reeves and Charles are fine little fellows. Charles has the character of a "good boy." Reeves has a little of the Indian in him; but I think not so much as you had at his age. As you are a business man, and will probably become rich, I think you ought to take one of these fine boys and teach him, what he will never learn from his father, the art, trade or mystery of money-making.

Little Mary has got up and come to me in the bower. Dear little Dutch stumpy, her affection for me is sometimes a little troublesome as her chief concern is to be with me whenever she can find me. . . .

God bless you and yours, my dear son,  
Joseph Doddridge  
Philip B. Doddridge,  
Portsmouth, Ohio.

Bedford, Sept. 25, 1824.

My Dear Wife: We are here. Our progress has been slow; but I have enjoyed the journey, and think my health is somewhat improved.

The mountain scenery through which we pass is varied, some beautiful, some grand and sublime beyond description. Whilst gazing with delight upon these displays of the Creator's power and goodness, my pleasure was suddenly checked by the reflection that these faculties by means of which I now hold communion with the beautiful in nature must soon be closed in death. But thanks be to Him, who made all things, I can look forward by faith to a world where beauty, peace, and purity are eternal, where none shall know sickness and weariness, such as I now feel.

At Brownsville and Uniontown, I was invited to officiate, which I did, at the latter place baptizing two children. Having preached in this last place also. Thus without expecting it, I have become a missionary.

Before arriving here, I intended, if possible, to find the house in which I first drank coffee in 1777 and in the event of finding it, to invite a few friends to take a cup with me in the same room. Remembering the name of the landlord, Nagel, and being able to give a tolerable description of the house, I found upon enquiring that

Billions's Hotel, where we put up, now occupies the site of Nagel's house.

Yesterday I went out to see the famous Bedford springs, about two miles from the town. The site, owing to the surrounding mountains, is highly romantic. The buildings of this water place consist of baths, boarding-houses and dormitories. The great Hall for amusements presents many fanciful and gorgeous decorations. On a low piece of ground, some distance from the Hall, on a pedestal of rock, stands a naiad, a large half naked female figure, with a Grecian face and costume, holding in her left hand a huge concha, from the top of which the water of the spring is thrown upward to the height of ten or twelve feet; but poor girl, her fine white drapery is turning yellow, from the action of the sulphate of iron contained in the water which is constantly falling on it.

The spring issues from the western side of the Cove mountain, at the height of nearly twenty feet above the creek which runs at its base. It is large and rises with great force through apertures in immense rocks, which still retain their primitive situation and aspect. A few rods higher up is another but smaller spring. The water of the principal spring is conducted into a large reservoir, supplying a long range of baths, which are filled at pleasure, by raising a small flood-gate. The water in the baths is

reached by a flight of steps. I had not, however, the courage to make the descent. The side of the mountain from which the spring issues is cut into serpentine walks, for the convenience and benefit of pedestrians who wish to take exercise and inhale the mountain air.

I have been examining the older records here, for names of my family but can only find that of my grandfather, Joseph Doddridge, who is mentioned as foreman of a grand jury in 1777.

Being within ten miles of the place of my nativity, I wished to learn something concerning my father's title to the land on which he lived in Friend's Cove, but could find nothing, as his title, whatever it was, originated when this was part of Cumberland County. I am informed here, that the land is now owned by a Mr. Cissner and that my father was unjustly deprived of it, but by whom I have not learned.

The Court House here was built in the reign of George III. The edifice is of stone, and is, without exception, the most misshapen, sombre-looking building I ever saw. I do not think the Bastille itself could have presented a more forbidding and gloomy aspect. I seated myself for a moment on the bench of justice, and after taking a survey of the antiquated, ill-shapen jury-boxes, and council-table gladly made my escape from the forum of my forefathers.

Jos. Doddridge

PIONEER MEDICINE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Doddridge's Notes were written in 1824, about two years before his death. The title page of the copy with the Notes which were reprinted in 1876 follows:

NOTES  
on the  
SETTLEMENT AND INDIAN WARS  
of the western parts of  
VIRGINIA AND PENNSYLVANIA  
from 1763 to 1783, inclusive  
Together with a  
View of the State of Society, and Manners of the  
First Settlers of the Western Country.  
By Joseph Doddridge  
with  
A MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR  
by his Daughter  
Edited by Alfred Williams.  
Albany, N. Y.  
Joel Munsell  
1876

From these notes several quotations are given which are of intrinsic worth and which reveal in almost every line the author himself.

DODDRIDGE'S NOTES

*Wolves; Hydrophobia.* The wolves, formerly so numerous, and so destructive to the cattle,

are now seldom heard of in our older settlements. It may seem strange that this ferocious and cunning animal, so long the scourge of the mountainous districts of Europe, should have so suddenly disappeared from our infant country. The sagacity of the wolves bids defiance to the most consummate craft of the hunters, many of whom, throughout life, never obtained a single chance to shoot at one of them. Sometimes, indeed they outwit them by pit-falls and steel traps; but no great number were killed by either of these means; nor had the price set upon their scalps by the state legislature any great effect in diminishing their number and depredations. By what means then did their destruction happen? On this subject I will hazard the opinion that a greater number of them were destroyed by hydrophobia than by all other means put together. That this disease took place among them at an early period is evident from the fact that nearly forty years ago, a Captain Rankin of Raccoon Creek, in Washington County, Pa. was bitten by a mad wolf. A few years ago, Mr. John M'Camant of this county met with the same misfortune. In both cases the wolf was killed, and I am sorry to add both these men died, after having suffered all the pains and horrors accompanying that most frightful of all diseases, that inflicted by the bite of a rabid animal.

An animal so ferocious as a wolf, and under the influence of madness, bites everything he can reach; of course the companions of his own den and thicket are the first victims of his rage. Hence, a single wolf would be the means of destroying the whole number of his fellows, in his immediate neighborhood at least. In the advanced state of the disease they lose their native wildness, leave their dens and thickets and seek the flocks and herds about farm houses, and in some instances have attempted to enter the houses themselves for the purpose of doing mischief.

Captain Rankin was bitten by a wolf in his own door. Hearing in the dead of night a noise among his beasts in the yard, he got up and opened the upper part of his door, which was a double one. The wolf instantly made a spring to get into the house. Rankin with great presence of mind caught the wolf in his arms as he was passing over the lower door and held him fast on its upper edge and against the door post, until a man belonging to the household jumped out of bed and got a knife and cut the wolf's throat; but the wolf in the mean time bit him severely in the wrist. If I recollect rightly, he lived but a short time afterwards.

*A Case of Hydrophobia.* Mr. John M'Camant, who lived a few miles from this place on the road to Washington, met a similar death much in the

### THREE PARSON PHYSICIANS

same way. Hearing an uproar among his beasts, not far from the house, he went to see what was the matter. He had not gone far before a wolf sprang at him and bit him severely in the left breast. Being a very strong, resolute man, he caught the wolf by the jaws and held them apart calling an apprentice lad to bring an axe to knock the wolf in the head. He came with all speed, but finding he had no chance of striking the wolf, without risking an injury to his master, he dropped the axe, ran back to the house and got a butcher knife, with which he cut the wolf's throat. It was between seven and eight weeks before the virus took effect, so as to produce the symptoms of the terrible disease which followed.

From the time I first heard of his being bitten by a wolf, I anticipated the consequence with horror, and the more so, because he applied to a physician who had the reputation of curing the bite of a mad animal with a single pill. Placing confidence in this nostrum, he neglected all other medical aid. In this pill I had no confidence, having previously seen and examined one of them and found it made of ingredients possessed of scarcely any medical efficacy whatever. On the Thursday preceding his death, he became slightly indisposed. On Friday and Saturday he had the appearance of a person taking an intermittent fever. On Saturday the hydrophobia came on. It was then I first saw him.

Having never seen the disease before, I was struck with consternation at his appearance. Every sense seemed to have acquired a hundred fold excitability. The slightest impression upon any of them, gave him a thrill of the deepest horror. Noise, the sight of colored clothing, the sudden passage of any person between him and the light of the window or candle, affected him beyond description.

On Sunday night his convulsive fits came on. He was then fastened by his hands and feet to the bed posts, to prevent him from doing mischief. At three o'clock on Monday evening he became delirious, his fits ceased, and at two o'clock in the morning death put a period to his sufferings.

It is impossible for language to describe this terrible disease. The horror of mind which he continually suffered, was equal to that which would be felt by the most timid lady, on being compelled to go alone at midnight into a graveyard, with the entire certainty of seeing a ghost in the most frightful form which a disordered imagination ever ascribed to a departed spirit. He several times requested the physicians to bleed him to death. Several veins were opened; but the blood had so far lodged itself in the engorgement of the viscera that none could be discharged from the veins. He then requested that some of his limbs might be cut off, that the

same object might be effected that way. Finding this request would not be complied with, he looked up to his rifle, and begged me with tears in his eyes to take it down and shoot him through the head, saying: "I will look at you with delight and thankfulness, while you are pulling the trigger. In doing this you will do right. I know from your countenance that you pity me; but you know not the thousandth part of what I suffer. You ought to put an end to my misery, and God himself will not blame you for doing so." What made these requests the more distressing, was the circumstance that they did not proceed from any derangement of mind, on the contrary, excepting during the time of his fits, which lasted only a few seconds at a time, he was in the full exercise of his understanding. His discourse until about three o'clock Monday evening was quite rational. He requested prayers to be made for him, and deliberately gave directions about the place of his interment and funeral sermon, all of which requests were complied with.

The reader, no doubt, wishes to know as much as possible concerning the famous pill, an improper reliance on which terminated in the death of Mr. M'Camant. I have had an opportunity of examining two of them at a considerable distance of time apart. The first I saw was about five times as large as one of Ander-

son's pills, and composed of Burgundy pitch and green rue. The second was made of the same material, with a narrow strip of paper rolled up in the middle of it. This paper contained about a dozen ill-shapen letters, but not so arranged as to spell any word in any language with which I am acquainted. The physician who gave these pills reported he got the recipe for making them from a priest of Abyssinia. Such is the superstition which still remains attached to the practice of the healing art, and from which in all likelihood, it will never be separated. But why then the celebrity of this pill, as a preventive of canine madness? Has it never had the effect ascribed to it? Certainly never.

By far the greater number of those who are said to be bitten by rabid animals have been bitten by animals either not really mad, or not in such state of madness as to communicate the disease.

An event which fell under my own observation several years ago will serve to explain the matter. Several children, one of whom was my own, were said to have been bitten by a mad cat, which was instantly killed. On inquiry I found that there was no report of mad animals in the neighborhood. I then gave it as my opinion that the apparent madness of the cat proceeded only from caterwauling. This did not satisfy anyone but myself, so I had to treat the children

as I should have, if the cat had been really mad, and thus got the credit of curing four cases of canine madness; a credit which I never deserved.

A few years ago, a gentleman of my neighborhood brought me his daughter whom he said had been bitten by a mad cat. I asked if the cat was a male one. He answered in the affirmative. He said he had imprisoned him in a closet. I am glad of that, said I; keep him there a few days, and you will find him as well as ever he was: and so it turned out.

Dogs are subject to similar madness from the same cause. In this state like cats, they are apt to bite even their best friends. In this case the animal is reported mad and instantly killed. In such cases these pills, as well as other nostrums for this disease, do wonders; and that is where there is nothing to be done.

*Diseases and Their Remedies.* This, amongst a rude and illiterate people, consisted mostly of specifics. As far as I can recollect them they shall be enumerated, together with the diseases for which they were used.

The diseases of children were mostly ascribed to worms, for the expulsion of which a solution of common salt was given. The dose was always large. I well remember, having been compelled to take half a tablespoonful, when quite small. To the best of my recollection it generally answered the purpose. Scrapings of pewter

spoons was another remedy for the worms. This dose was also large, amounting to, I should think, from twenty to forty grains. It was commonly given in sugar. Sulphate of iron, or green copperas, was a third remedy for worms. The dose of this also was larger than we should venture to give at this time.

For burns a poultice of Indian meal was a common remedy. A poultice of scraped potatoes was also a favorite remedy with some people. Roasted turnips made into a poultice, was used by others. Slippery elm bark was often used in the same way. I do not recall that any internal remedy, or bleeding was ever used for burns.

The croup, or what was then called the *bold bives*, was a common disease among the children, many of whom died of it. For the cure of this, the juice of roasted onions or garlic was given in large doses. Wall ink was also a favorite remedy with many of the old ladies. For fevers, sweating was the general remedy. This was generally performed by means of a strong decoction of Virginia snake root. The dose was always very large. If a purge was used, it was about half a pint of a strong decoction of white walnut bark. This when it was intended for a purge was peeled downward; if for a vomit, it was peeled upwards. Indian physic, or bowman root, a species of epicacuanha was frequently used for a vomit, and sometimes the pocoon or blood root.

*Snake Bites.* For the bite of a rattle, or copper snake, a great variety of specifics was used. I remember when a small boy to have seen a man bitten by a rattle snake brought into the fort on a man's back. One of the company dragged the snake after him by a forked stick fastened in its head. The body of the snake was cut into pieces of about two inches in length, split open in succession, and laid in the wound to draw out the poison, as he expressed it. When this was over, a fire was kindled up in the fort yard and the whole of the serpent burned to ashes, by way of revenge for the injury he had done. After this process was over, a large quantity of chestnut leaves was collected and boiled in a pot. The whole of the wounded man's leg and part of his thigh were placed in a piece of chestnut bark, fresh from the tree, and the decoction poured on the leg so as to run down into the pot again; after continuing this process for some time, a quantity of the boiled leaves were bound to the leg. This was repeated several times a day. The man got well; but whether owing to the treatment bestowed on his wound, it is not certain.

A number of native plants were used for the cure of snake bites, among them the white plantain held a high rank. This was boiled in milk and the decoction given the patient in large quantities. A kind of fern, which from its

resemblance to the leaves of walnut, was called walnut fern, was another remedy. A plant with fibrous roots, resembling the seneka-snake root, of black color and a strong, but not disagreeable smell, was considered and relied on as the Indian specific for the cure of the sting of a snake. A decoction of this root was also used for the cure of colds. Another plant which very much resembled the one above mentioned, but violently poisonous, was sometimes mistaken for it and used in its place. I knew two young women who in consequence of being bitten by rattlesnakes used the poisonous plant instead of the other, and nearly lost their lives by the mistake. The roots were applied to their legs in the form of a poultice; the violent burning and swelling occasioned by the inflammation, discovered the mistake in time to prevent them from taking any of the decoction, which had they done it, would have been fatal. It was with difficulty that the part to which the poultice was applied was saved from mortification, so that the remedy was far worse than the disease.

Cupping, sucking the wound, and making deep incisions which were filled with salt and gun powder, were among the remedies for snake bites. It does not appear to me, that any of the internal remedies used by the Indians or the first settlers of this country, were well adapted for the cure of the disease, occasioned

by the bite of a snake. The poison of a snake, like that of a bee or wasp, must consist of a highly concentrated and very poisonous acid, which instantly inflames the part to which it is applied. That any substance whatever can act as a specific for the decomposition of this poison, seems altogether doubtful. The cure of the fever occasioned by this animal poison, must be effected with reference to those general indications which are regarded in the cure of other fevers of equal force. The internal remedies alluded to, so far as I am acquainted with them, are possessed of little or no medical efficacy. They are not emetics, cathartics, or sudorifics. What then? They are harmless substances which do wonders in all these cases in which there is nothing to be done.

The truth is, the bite of a rattle or copper snake in the fleshy or tendinous part, where the blood vessels are neither numerous nor large, soon heals under any kind of treatment. But when the fangs of the serpent, which are hollow and eject the poison through an orifice near the points, penetrate a blood vessel of any considerable size, a malignant and incurable fever was generally the immediate consequence and the patient expired in the first paroxysm. The same observation applies to the effects of the bite of serpents when inflicted on beasts. Horses were frequently killed by them, as they were com-

monly bitten about the nose, in which the blood vessels are large and numerous. I once saw a horse die of the bite of a rattlesnake. The blood for some time before he died, exuded in great quantities through the pores of the skin.

Cattle were less frequently killed, because their noses are of a gristly texture, and less furnished with blood vessels than those of a horse. Dogs were some times bitten and being natural physicians, they commonly scratched a hole in some damp place and held the wounded part in the ground until the inflammation abated. Hogs when in tolerable order, were never hurt by them owing to their thick substratum of fat between the skin, muscular flesh and blood vessels. The hog generally took immediate revenge for the injury done him, by instantly tearing to pieces and devouring the serpent which inflicted it.

The itch, which was a very common disease in early times, was commonly cured by an ointment made of brimstone and hog's lard.

Gunshot and other wounds were treated with slippery elm bark, flax seed and other such like poultices. Many lost their lives from wounds which would now be considered trifling and easily cured. The use of the lancet and other means of depletion in the treatment of wounds, constituted no part of their cure in this country in early times.

### THREE PARSON PHYSICIANS

My mother died in early life of a wound from the tread of a horse which any person in the habit of letting blood might have cured by two or three bleedings, without any other remedy. The wound was poulticed with spikenard roots and soon terminated in an extensive mortification.

Most of the men of the early settlers of this country were affected with the rheumatism. For relief of this disease, the hunters generally slept with their feet to the fire. From this practice they certainly derived much advantage. The oil of rattlesnakes, geese, wolves, bears, raccoons, groundhogs and polecats, was applied to swelled joints and bathed in before the fire.

The pleurisy was the only disease which was supposed to require blood-letting; but in many cases a bleeder was not to be had.

Coughs and pulmonary consumptions were treated with a great variety of syrups, the principal ingredients of which were commonly spikenard and elecampane. These syrups gave but little relief.

Charms and incantations were in use for the cure of many diseases. I learned, when young, the incantation in German, for the cure of burns, stopping blood, for the toothache, and the charm against bullets in battle, but for the want of faith in their efficacy, I never used any of them.

The erysipelas, or St. Anthony's fire, was circumscribed by the blood of a black cat. Hence there was scarcely a black cat to be seen, whose ears or tail had not been frequently cropped, for a contribution of blood.

Whether the medical profession is productive of most good or harm, may still be a matter of dispute with some philosophers who never saw any condition of society in which there were no physicians, and therefore could not be furnished a proper test for deciding the question. Had a believer in the healing art been amongst the early inhabitants of this country, he would have been in a proper situation to witness the consequences of the want of the exercise of this art. For many years in succession there was no proper person who bore the name of a doctor within considerable distance of the residence of my father. For the honor of the medical profession I must give it as my opinion, that many of our people perished for want of medical skill and attention.

The pleurisy was the only disease which was, in any considerable degree understood by our people. A pain in the side called for the use of the lancet, if there was any to be had; but owing to the sparing use, the patient was apt to be left with a spitting of blood, which sometimes ended in consumption. A great number of children died of croup. Remittent and intermittent fevers

were treated with warm drinks, for the purpose of sweating. The patients were denied the use of cold water and fresh air. Many of them died. Of those who escaped, not a few died afterwards of the dropsy or consumption; or were left with paralytic limbs. Deaths in childbed were not infrequent. Many no doubt, died of the bite of serpents in consequence of an improper reliance on specifics possessed of no medical virtue.

My father died of an hepatitis, at the age of forty-six. He labored under this disease for thirteen years. The fever which accompanied it was called the "dumb ague" and the swelling in the region of the liver "the ague cake." The abscess burst and discharged a large quantity of matter which put a period to his life, in about thirty hours after the commencement of the discharge.

Thus, I for one, may say that in all human probability, I lost both parents for want of medical aid.

*Witchcraft.* I shall not be lengthy on this subject. The belief in witchcraft was prevalent among the early settlers of the western country. To the witch was ascribed the tremendous power of inflicting strange and incurable diseases, particularly on children, of destroying cattle by shooting them with hair balls and a great variety of other means of destruction, of inflicting spells and curses on guns and other

things, and lastly of changing men into horses and after bridling and saddling them riding them in full speed over hill and dale to their frolics and other places of rendezvous. More ample powers of mischief than these cannot well be imagined.

Wizards were men supposed to possess the same mischievous powers as witches; but these were seldom exercised for bad purposes. The powers of the wizards were exercised almost exclusively for the purpose of counteracting the malevolent influences of the witches of the other sex. I have known several of these witch masters, as they were called, who made a public profession of curing the disease inflicted by the influence of witches, and I have known respectable physicians who had no greater portion of business in the line of their profession than many of those witch masters had in theirs.

The means by which the witch was supposed to inflict diseases, curses and spells, I never could learn. They were occult sciences, which no one was supposed to understand, excepting the witch herself, and no wonder, as no such arts ever existed in any country.

The first German glass blowers in this country, drove the witches out of their furnaces by throwing living puppies into them.

The greater or less amount of belief in witchcraft, necromancy and astrology serves to show

the amount of philosophical science in any country. Ignorance is always associated with superstition, which, presenting an endless variety of sources of hope and fear, with regard to the good or bad fortunes of life, keep the benighted mind continually harassed with groundless and delusive, but strong and often deeply distressing impressions of a false faith. For this disease of the mind there is no cure but that of philosophy. This science shows to the enlightened reason of man, that no effect whatever can be produced in the physical world, without a corresponding cause. This science announces that the death bell is but a momentary morbid motion of the ear, and the death watch the noise of a bug in the wall, and that the howling of the dog, and the croaking of the raven are but the natural languages of the beast and fowl, and no way prophetic of the death of the sick. The comet, which used to shake pestilence and war from its fiery train, is now viewed with as little emotion as the movements of Jupiter and Saturn in their respective orbits.

*Crime.* The greater the amount of freedom, the greater the necessity of a steady and faithful administration of justice; but more especially of criminal justice, because a general diffusion of science, while it produces the most salutary effect on a general scale, produces also the worst

crimes by creating the greater capacity for their commission. There is scarcely any art or science, which is not in some hands, and certain circumstances, made an instrument of the most atrocious vices. The arts of navigation and gunnery, so necessary for the wealth and defense of a nation, have often degenerated into the crime of piracy. The beautiful art of engraving and the most useful art of writing, have been used by the fraudulent for counterfeiting all kinds of public and private documents of credit. Were it not for science and freedom, the important professions of theology and physic would not be so frequently assumed by the pseudo priest and the quack, without previous acquirements, without rights and for purposes wholly base and unwarrantable. . . .

Still it may be asked whether facts warrant the belief that the scale is fairly turned in favor of science, piety and civilization; whether in regard to these important endowments of our nature, the present time is better than the past, and the future likely to be better than the present. Whether we may safely consider our political institutions so matured and settled that our personal liberty, property and sacred honor are not only secured to us for the present, but likely to remain the inheritance of our children for generations yet to come. Society in its best state resembles a sleeping volcano,

### THREE PARSON PHYSICIANS

as to the amount of latent moral evil which it always contains. It is enough for public safety, and all that can be reasonably expected, that the good preponderate over the evil. The moral and political means which have been so successfully employed for preventing a revolutionary explosion, have, as we trust, procrastinated the danger of such an event for a long time to come. If we have criminals, they are speedily pursued and brought to justice.

#### REV. CEPHAS DODD

Besides Doddridge, another man, in the person of Cephas Dodd, studied and practiced both theology and medicine. Like Doddridge, he studied at Jefferson College under Rev. John McMillan and like Doddridge he studied theology first and medicine afterwards, acting on the suggestion of his friend, Dr. Henry Blachly. It appeared that he first studied medicine to make him more effective as a minister of the gospel, but as time went on his practice grew to large proportions. He exercised a sphere of wide influence in the community in which he lived and he was a credit to himself as well as to both professions. He died at the age of seventy-nine, leaving behind him

one son, Thaddeus Dodd, and a grandson, W. S. Dodd of Washington, Pennsylvania.

REV. JACOB JENNINGS

In Dr. Jacob Jennings we have another example of a man who preached the gospel and practiced medicine. Dr. Jennings practiced medicine in New Jersey until he was licensed to preach, when he moved to Westmoreland County. Here he exercised the duties of a physician and minister of the gospel from 1792 to 1811. He died in 1813. His son, Ebenezer Jennings, settled near Burgettstown, Washington County, and became famous as a promoter of the practice of vaccination. He died in 1808 at the early age of thirty-three.

## VI

PHYSICIANS OF THE FIRST HALF OF THE  
NINETEENTH CENTURY

DR. DAVID WISHART

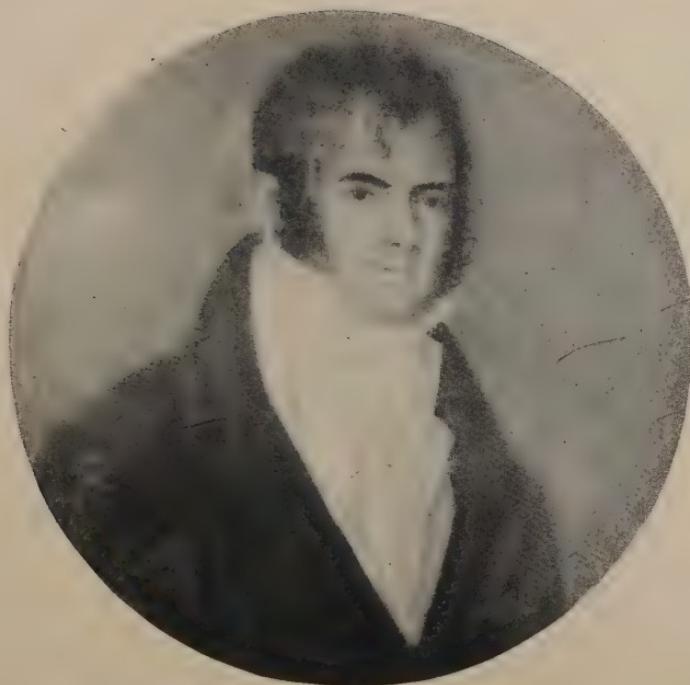
R. David Wishart was the first of four generations of physicians to practice in Pittsburgh. He was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1796 and upon emigrating to this country he settled in Huntington and later in Bedford County. Here his son, John, who was born in Scotland, began the study of medicine and in 1808 was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. He at once began the practice of medicine in Washington, where he attained first rank as practicing surgeon and consultant.

His son, John W. Wishart, was also graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and served as surgeon in the 140th Pennsylvania Regiment of Volunteers. After the war he settled in Pittsburgh where he resided until his death a few years ago. His son, Charles A. Wishart, followed his

father's footsteps; after engaging in general practice of medicine several years he took up the specialty of ophthalmology, which he pursued until his death a few years ago. He was one of the founders of the Eye and Ear Hospital.

JOEL LEWIS

Dr. Joel Lewis was born in Delaware in 1790. He studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania; among his teachers were Rush, Chapman and Physick. He began the practice of medicine in 1811, immediately after he had gained the degree of M.D. He was a skilled surgeon and deeply devoted to his profession. He was an ardent patriot and in 1822 was made brigadier-general of the 15th Division of the Pennsylvania Militia. The same year another honor came to him when he was made president of the Pittsburgh Medical Society which had been founded the previous year. But his promising career was short, for he died March 28, 1824. Dr. Lewis inherited much real estate from his maternal grandfather, who settled in Pittsburgh during the Revolutionary War. A granddaughter, widow of Dr. Frank LeMoyné, recently died in Pittsburgh.



JOEL LEWIS (1790-1824).  
PRESIDENT OF THE PITTSBURGH MEDICAL SOCIETY IN 1822.



## PHYSICIANS OF EARLY 19TH CENTURY

### JAMES AGNEW

Dr. James Agnew was the father of Daniel Agnew, of Beaver (afterwards Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court). He came to Pittsburgh from Philadelphia in 1815 where he began the practice of medicine and very soon attained an enviable position in the profession. Dr. Agnew was associated with Dr. Simpson, another physician of note of that day. An advertisement in the City Directory stated they were ready for business and one or the other would always be at the shop. These two physicians probably conducted the first drug store and drug warehouse in Pittsburgh. Another practitioner of early days was Dr. Dimmitt, who was associated with Dr. Agnew in the practice of medicine. To him is credited the distinction of having been the first physician west of the mountains to use Jenner's method of vaccination.

### THE GAZZAM BROTHERS

Among the early nineteenth century physicians, the two Gazzam brothers, Joseph and Edward, figured very prominently and for many years. Their father,

William Gazzam, was educated at the University of Cambridge. He became a journalist and took a strong position against the Crown, whereby he laid up trouble for himself; and, deeming his position in England unsafe, he emigrated to America in 1793. He first settled in Philadelphia, where his son Joseph was born in 1797. He moved to Pittsburgh in 1802 where he passed the remainder of his life. In 1803 he was appointed collector of the Port of Pittsburgh by Jefferson on the recommendation of the then Secretary of State, James Madison. He married twice and died in 1811, leaving fifteen children. The brothers Joseph and Edward Gazzam were born of the union of their father with his second wife, Anne Parker Gazzam.

Joseph Gazzam was born in Philadelphia in 1797; and when five years of age moved with his father to Pittsburgh, where he resided continuously until his death in 1863. In 1824 he married Harriet Breading of Brownsville, daughter of Judge Nathaniel and Mary Ewing Breading. Two children, James and Harriet, resulted from this union. Dr. Gazzam and his wife, as well as their daughter Harriet, are buried in the Allegheny Cemetery.



DR. JOSEPH GAZZAM (1797-1863).



From the year 1817, when he was graduated in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania, he continued in active practice in Pittsburgh until the day of his death in 1863, so his medical career was a long one. It was also an exceedingly active and varied one. When he began practice, Pittsburgh was a town of about 6000 inhabitants; and when he died its population was about 60,000. He encountered and fought valiantly several epidemics of cholera and smallpox which visited Pittsburgh from time to time, and in these efforts he was ably supported by his talented brother, Edward, who was both lawyer and physician, more of the former than the latter. He undoubtedly saw Lafayette when he visited Pittsburgh in 1825 and heard his brother Edward deliver the speech of welcome which made him famous. He witnessed the great fire of 1845 and saw the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. Doubtless in his youth he had conversed in Pittsburgh with Revolutionary soldiers, probably with General O'Hara, Major Isaac Craig, General Butler and others; he lived through the Mexican War and saw the blue uniform of the Federal troops as they marched away from Pitts-

burgh to aid in putting down the Rebellion. In 1863 Dr. Gazzam and Mr. Neville Craig, who was born in Pittsburgh in 1787 and is our premier historian, both died. Doubtless these two notable men saw much of each other.

Dr. Gazzam took part in founding the Pittsburgh Medical Society in 1821, the Allegheny Medical Society in 1848, but he died two years before the Allegheny County Medical Society was organized. He was in the midst of his practice when ether was discovered in 1846. He saw the birth of the Passavant, Mercy and West Penn Hospitals. He welcomed the arrival of many colleagues, notable among them Albert G. Walter, when he came to Pittsburgh from Nashville in 1837 to begin his professional life in Pittsburgh. All in all Joseph Gazzam must with Bedford and Mowry be accounted a most notable figure in the medical annals of Pittsburgh of the first half of the nineteenth century.

Edward Despard Gazzam was born in Pittsburgh in 1803, being six years younger than his brother Joseph. He was at first named Albert Gallatin, but one day his father remarked to his wife: "Albert Gallatin is not yet dead; he may change before he

leaves this world. Suppose we call this boy Edward Despard." This was accordingly done. Edward Despard was a friend of the father who had been executed in England, convicted of treason, and was accounted by him a patriot.

Young Gazzam studied law and was admitted to the bar of Allegheny County in 1826. Later he took up the study of medicine and was in due time graduated with the degree of M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Although his life was an exceedingly active one, it was more concerned with politics and public affairs than with medicine. Yet he always maintained an interest in medicine and the medical profession, and from time to time he rendered it some worth-while service. He cooperated with his brother Joseph in combatting two or three epidemics in Pittsburgh.

When Lafayette visited Pittsburgh in 1824, Edward Gazzam, although only twenty-one, made the welcoming speech in behalf of the people of Western Pennsylvania; and despite his youth, he acquitted himself with great credit.

Reared a Democrat, he was deeply opposed to slavery and left that party; and

with Salmon P. Chase and others founded the Free Soil Party. On the platform of this party he was a candidate for governor of Pennsylvania in 1848. In 1855 he was a candidate for state senator from Pittsburgh. He was defeated in both contests; but the next year was elected by the Union Republican Party as the first Republican senator from Allegheny County. He was at one time postmaster of Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Directory for 1815 contains the names of William S. Coxe, Morrell Parker and Edward Pennington, physicians, as well as those of Bedford, Mowry, Stevenson, Dawson and Lewis. Of these first three no records are to be had, and only their names remain to tell the story of their lives and labors. From a memorandum of the late Dr. James Speer, the roster of the Physicians of Allegheny County in 1828, shortly after he began the practice of medicine in Pittsburgh, is as follows: Peter Mowry, James Agnew, William Simpson, Joseph Gazzam, Felix Brunot, S. R. Holmes, C. L. Armstrong, W. F. Irwin, J. H. Irwin, William Church, William Addison, L. Callahan, Henry Hennen, H. D. Sellers, John T.

## PHYSICIANS OF EARLY 19TH CENTURY

Stone, Thomas Miller, David Reynolds and James Speer. In 1832 Dr. Speer adds the following names to the list: Jeremiah Brooks, T. F. Dale, E. D. Gazzam, Adam Hays, Ebenezer Henderson, William Hughey, Jonas McClintock, A. N. McDowell, John Roseburg, J. H. Smith, William Woods and Robert Wray.

### S. R. HOLMES

Dr. Holmes, one of Dr. Mowry's students, arose to a position of distinction in this community. He was "conspicuous by his handsome presence and the spirited gray horse he rode." He was said to be one of the most popular physicians of the early twenties.

### JOHN ROSEBURG

Dr. Roseburg was a scion of an old Pittsburgh family. He died of Asiatic cholera at Poland, Ohio, in 1833 at the early age of thirty. Although he died so early he had become a physician of great note and president of the Pittsburgh Council and was the founder of the Duquesne Grays, a notable military organization.

JAMES SPEER

Dr. James Speer was a notable figure in the medical practice of Pittsburgh in the early part of the nineteenth century. He came to Pittsburgh in 1825 and continued in practice there until his death in 1891 at the age of ninety-five. Dr. Speer at once took rank as surgeon and made a specialty of ophthalmology. It is said he performed the operation for the removal of cataract more than six hundred times. He founded the Allegheny Cemetery.

THE IRWIN FAMILY

For many years in the early part of the nineteenth century, Dr. Lewis Irwin was a prominent physician in Pittsburgh. Dr. John H. Irwin was associated with South-side practice. Another Irwin was called "Devil John" on account of his dashing and reckless manner.

JONAS MCCLINTOCK

Dr. Jonas McClintock, besides working indefatigably as a physician, was also much concerned with municipal affairs. He was born in 1807 and died in 1879. He was



JAMES SPEER (1796-1891).  
PIONEER IN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL PRACTICE IN PITTSBURGH,  
FOUNDER OF THE ALLEGHENY CEMETERY.



trusted by all people in every relation of life and enjoyed their confidence as have few men. He was easily elected mayor and all through his career was conspicuous in public service.

JEREMIAH BROOKS

Dr. Jeremiah Brooks was born February 24, 1797, in New Jersey and located in Pittsburgh in 1830. He enjoyed a large practice and the esteem of all who knew him. He was active in the organization of the Passavant Hospital and was connected with it as long as he lived. He died August 27, 1865.

WILLIAM ADDISON

Dr. William Addison was the son of the distinguished jurist who was impeached as a result of political connivance which was rife about the year 1800. Dr. Addison studied both in America and France. He was a noted historian and naturalist as well as physician. He edited a dictionary on ornithology. Dr. Addison associated himself in the practice of medicine with his brother-in-law, Peter Mowry. He is said to have been of studious habits and his eccentric temper

somewhat isolated him from his fellow practitioners, but his great ability and sterling worth were everywhere recognized.

#### DAVID ALTER

Dr. David Alter (1807-1881) was born in Westmoreland County, his father was a Swiss and his mother a German. His early educational opportunities were most meager. He was graduated from the Reformed Medical College of the United States, an institution of the Eclectic and Botanic School. His career as a physician is unimportant, but living in a quiet obscure country town he made investigations of far-reaching importance.

At the age of eight or nine he was greatly impressed by reading the life of Benjamin Franklin and was strongly drawn to the study of electricity. He independently perfected an electric telegraph in 1836; in 1837 he published in the *Kittanning Gazette* an article on the use of electricity as a motive power. In 1845 Dr. Alter engaged in the manufacture of bromine by a process which he and his partner invented and patented. A large jar of this was exhibited at the World's Fair in New York in 1853.



DR. DAVID ALTER (1807-1881).  
DISCOVERER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF  
PRISM TO THE SPECTRUM ANALYSIS.



He also invented a process for extracting oil from coal; but the greatest invention of this ingenious man was the discovery and application of the principle of prism to the spectrum analysis. His discovery antedates that of Kirchoff.

#### THE DICKSON FAMILY

Dr. John Dickson of Pittsburgh was born in Cecil County, Maryland, May 24, 1812. His parents, John and Mary Dickson, were of Scotch-Irish descent. After a preparatory course he entered the Academy at Clinton, Pennsylvania, whence he graduated at the age of sixteen and immediately became a teacher in the district schools of Allegheny County. He attended medical lectures for two years in New York and graduated from New York University. Beginning practice in Sewickley, Allegheny County, he removed ten years later to Pittsburgh, retaining, however, his Sewickley practice. After the lapse of another ten years he returned to Sewickley, but without resigning his Pittsburgh practice. He was married in 1840 to Mary Way, and had eight children; two, John S. and Joseph N., graduated from Jefferson Medical College,

Philadelphia, and were associated with their father in practice. Joseph attained national distinction as a surgeon.

Dr. Thomas Dickson, a younger brother of John Dickson, fell a sacrifice for his country in 1862. He contracted pernicious malaria while with the Army of the Potomac in the Peninsular Campaign and reached home only to die.

Dr. John S. Dickson was born April 11, 1844. He received his degree at Jefferson Medical College in 1868 and then studied abroad for two years. He was a surgeon of marked ability and a successful physician. He died September 14, 1892.

Joseph N. Dickson was born April 8, 1848. He was a graduate of Jefferson (1869) and like his brother, spent two years in London and Paris. "Dr. Joe," as he was familiarly called, inherited a full measure of his father's surgical tastes and abilities. He was a popular physician, a keen sportsman, an ardent lover of Nature and a genial kindly companion.

GEORGE BRUCE

Dr. George Bruce was born in Pittsburgh in 1811 and died May 29, 1891. He was also

a student of medicine in the office of Dr. Joseph Gazzam. He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1833 and later spent two years in the hospitals and medical schools of Edinburgh and Paris. While in Europe he gave special attention to the heart and lungs and was an acknowledged authority on diseases of those organs. As a practitioner he was preeminently successful and is gratefully remembered by many of our older citizens.

WILLIAM C. REITER

A memorable figure in the local history of medicine is that of W. C. Reiter, born in Pittsburgh March 25, 1817. He began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Postlethwait of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and was graduated in 1839 from Jefferson Medical College. He at first practiced in Mt. Pleasant but in 1856 moved to Pittsburgh, where he was actively engaged until his death November 29, 1882. Dr. Reiter was in many respects a remarkable man. He was a bold practitioner and an original thinker. He was a thorough lover of Nature and his ever youthful enthusiasm, keen observation and graphic speech made him a most

entertaining companion. Among physicians he will be best remembered by his brochure on diphtheria, and whatever merit attaches to the heroic use of calomel in that disease belongs to Dr. Reiter.

WILLIAM WALLACE

A young man of great promise, but of short though brilliant career, was Dr. William Wallace, son-in-law of Dr. Walter. He was born in Allegheny, August 22, 1851, received his degree at the St. Louis Medical College in 1870 and died in Pittsburgh August 25, 1883.

JOSEPH ALLISON REED

Dr. Joseph Allison Reed was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, December 31, 1823, and was graduated with the degree of A.M. from Washington College in 1842. In 1847 he received his degree of M.D. from Jefferson Medical College and at once commenced the practice of medicine in Allegheny. In 1857, when the insane department was divorced from the medical and surgical department of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, largely through the labors of Dr. Reed and Miss Dorothea L.

Dix, Dr. Reed was placed in charge of Dixmont, where he gave twenty-seven years of his life to the amelioration of the pitiful condition of the insane. Dr. Reed was known throughout the country as an authority on the subject of insanity and he was frequently called by the Government, both state and national, to aid in proper legislation for the care of the insane. His contribution to the literature of insanity was varied and valuable. He died November 6, 1884.

Dr. Reed is the father of Judge James H. Reed, a distinguished jurist of Pittsburgh, who in turn is the father of David Reed, at present one of the United States senators from Pittsburgh.

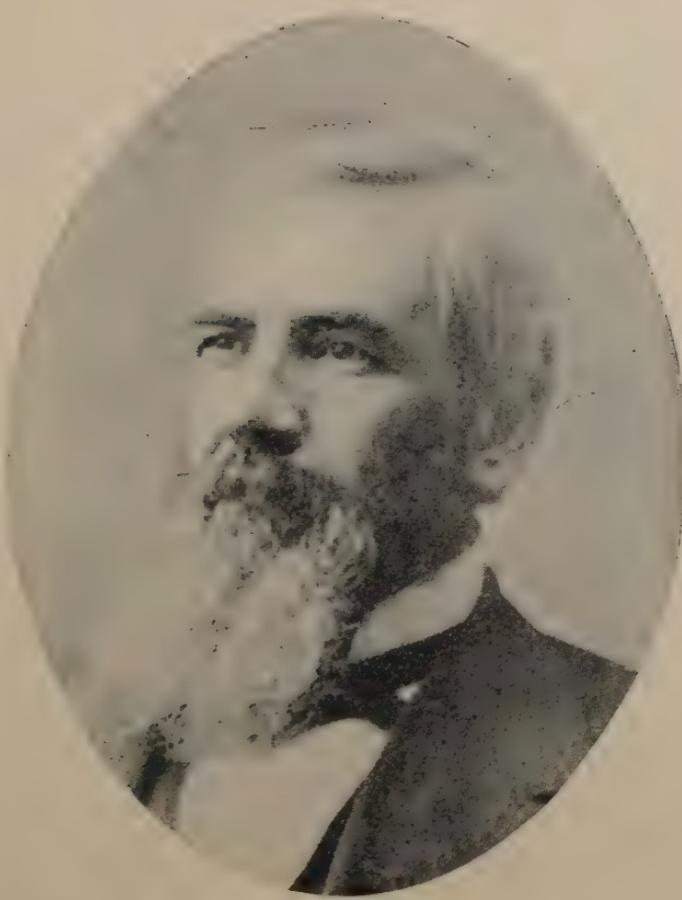
THOMAS GALLAGHER

Dr. Thomas Gallagher, born in 1822 in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1849 and practiced medicine in Pittsburgh for nearly forty years. In connection with his son, Dr. R. C. Gallagher, he edited the *Pittsburgh Medical Journal*, the first effort at local professional publicity. Dr. Gallagher made many valuable contributions to medical literature. He was a laborious and enthu-

siastic student, a conscientious and successful practitioner and an honest man.

#### JAMES KING

James King, Pittsburgh, son of John King, iron-master, was born January 18, 1816, in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. He was educated at the Bedford Classical and Mathematical Academy and studied medicine in Lexington, Kentucky, under Dr. Benjamin W. Dudley, subsequently entering the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated March 14, 1838. He began practice at Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, whence in 1844 he moved to Washington, Pennsylvania, remaining there about six years and filling during a portion of the period the chair of anatomy in the Washington College. This he resigned on account of ill health and in 1850 removed to Pittsburgh. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he entered the United States Army as surgeon at Camp Curtin, as division surgeon of the state, and as medical director of the Pennsylvania Reserves, which last position he held until the battle of Antietam. After this battle, at the request of Gov. Curtin, he was mustered out of the federal service to



JAMES KING.  
SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
MEDICAL SOCIETY, 1866.



become surgeon-general of the state, holding this latter place until August 1, 1864, when he resigned and resumed his practice in Pittsburgh. He was, it may be added, a member of the first examining board organized by his predecessor in the office of surgeon-general and in his own discharge of the office did much to systematize its regulations and improve its management, not to mention his official reports, the style and method of which so commended themselves to the surgeon-general of the sister state of Ohio that he took the report as a model. He was the Second president of the Allegheny County Medical Society in 1866.

A list of physicians practicing in Pittsburgh in 1853, furnished by Dr. A. M. Speer, contains the following names in addition to some of those mentioned: Fahnestock, Shepley, Holmes, Edrington, Robert Simpson, Walter Murdoch, Cahill, Dorsey, Wilson, McCook, Sr., McCook, Jr., Snyder, Morgan, King, Brackenridge, Hazlett, Reynolds, Cross, Sr., Cross, Jr., Dilworth, Trevor, Irish, Tober, Gallagher, Mackey, Hallock, Shaw, Tindle, Pollock, Speer, Bruce, Hammersley, McCracken; and in Allegheny, J. B. Herron, William Herron, John Dickson, Thomas Dickson and Reed.

## VII

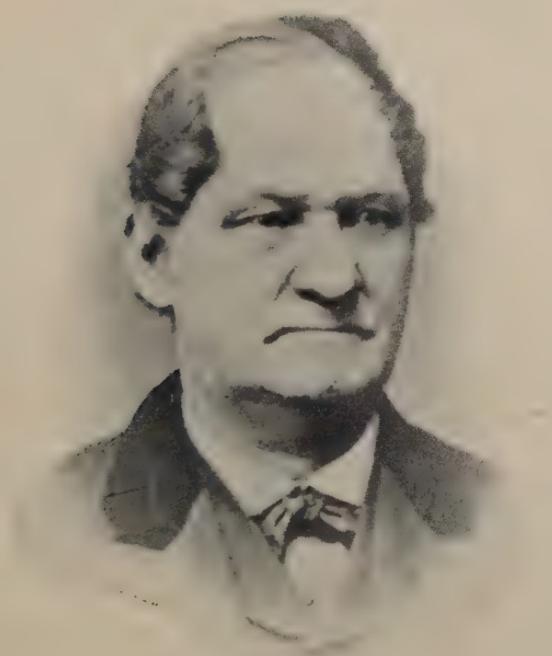
## ALBERT G. WALTER



O Albert G. Walter must be accorded the first place of distinction in the medical annals of Pittsburgh.<sup>1</sup> He was a most picturesque character, a man of unbounded enthusiasm and capacity for work, a man of great talent, exceedingly ingenious, resourceful and creative; a man of imagination and courage, he was an isolated figure in the medical world of his day. His makeup and temperament were such that he was constantly in hot water. His was a tumultuous and tempestuous life. He had many professional enemies in Pittsburgh; even the few who admired him, feared him.<sup>2</sup> He

<sup>1</sup> For valuable aid in the preparation of the sketch of Dr. Walter, I am indebted to his daughter, Mrs. Wallace, to his grandson, Mr. Albert Wallace, and to Drs. Otto Gaub, John J. Buchanan and H. H. Clark.

<sup>2</sup> Among the colleagues with whom Walter remained friendly were Drs. T. W. Shaw, Joseph Gazzam and Coffee.



ALBERT G. WALTER (1811-1876).



relates, himself, that on one occasion efforts were made by rival practitioners to instigate malpractice suits against him, and he in turn instigated a number of such suits.<sup>1</sup> The story is told that an actual attempt was made to lynch him in the Hill District when he had got himself into some sort of a broil.

Walter was born in Germany, June 21, 1811. He was left an orphan at the age of four. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Königsburg and afterward took a year's post-graduate course in Berlin. He was a pupil and assistant of the celebrated Dieffenbach and at the latter's suggestion emigrated to America. On this voyage he was shipwrecked upon the coast of Norway and lost all his belongings. With other passengers, he landed in London without friends or resources of any sort. He procured a position as clerk in a law office where he worked a year and thereby earned money to continue his journey to America. During his enforced stay in London, he attended medical lectures and especially

<sup>1</sup> A brief search in the prothonotary's office in the Pittsburgh Court House shows that in the year 1866 and 1872 Walter was engaged in malpractice suits.

profited by those of Sir Astley Cooper, who always afterwards remained his friend.

Upon his arrival in New York, Walter found the profession unsympathetic; there was "no room for a Dutchman." By manual labor he earned enough money to take him to Philadelphia, but meeting a similar reception there he shortly afterward left for Nashville, Tennessee. After practicing there for two years he came to Pittsburgh, in 1837, where he remained in active practice until his death on the fourteenth of October, 1876.

When he came to Pittsburgh he was extremely poor. He was befriended by George W. Jackson, father of J. B. Jackson, who always remained his friend and at this time advanced him sufficient money to buy a horse. He opened an office on Liberty Avenue near Ferry Street. Later he moved to Fifth Avenue at the corner of Cherry Alley. He hesitated to make this move, fearing it was too far removed from the center of population. Afterwards he moved a square north, to Sixth Avenue, where he resided until the day of his death. In 1846 he married Miss Frances Anne Butler, daughter of Major John J. Butler of the

United States arsenal, and niece of Dr. Joseph Gazzam. Dr. Walter was very happy in his family life and deeply devoted to his wife and children. Of his four children, two died in childhood, but a son and daughter survived him and the latter, Mrs. Wallace, and several grandchildren are still living in Pittsburgh. Fearing tuberculosis in his son, he sent him to Switzerland in 1858; and two years later with his wife and daughter crossed the ocean with the expectation of remaining a year with him. He visited several uncles in Germany and commented to his wife that Germany had not progressed any since he had left it more than twenty years before, and was happy to reflect that his lot was cast in America where all things were progressive.

It is said that children always loved Walter and that in general he held not only the admiration but the affection of his patients. He was fond of all sorts of pets: pigeons, squirrels, dogs, goats and so forth, and for a time carried a pet squirrel in his pocket which was trained to travel up his back, about his neck and then retire to his coat pocket. It was the same emotion in Walter which made him love animals that

Ied him to take a most active part in the affairs of the Humane Society of Pittsburgh, of which he was one of the founders. This Society was organized in 1874 and Walter presided at the first meeting. He said a man who would not be voluntarily kind to animals must be forced to be kind "to obey the commands of heart, of conscience and of God." He said to his associates: "I am ever ready to serve this good cause with all my heart."

From the early days in his Pittsburgh career, Walter secured accident work from the mills, and his superiority to other surgeons who did such work was so quickly apparent that he soon acquired a national reputation for accident surgery. It is said that Walter's first fee was received shortly after his arrival in Pittsburgh: five dollars paid him by Dr. T. W. Shaw for his services in assisting him in an operation. This he at once devoted to the purchase of a box of the blackest cigars the town afforded.

Walter was a great student. He worked through the day and sat up until the small hours of the night making notes and devising mechanical methods of accident treatment. With German thrift, he was economical to

the last degree. His widow for many years kept drawers containing bits of straps, odd buckles, splints and every mechanical device which he used. Mrs. Walter stated that he never destroyed any appliance he had used on a patient. Dr. Albert Pettit, who succeeded to his offices, states that one very large room was lined with deep closets which were filled from floor to ceiling with surgical appliances and casts of all sorts. He personally supervised the making of these appliances at the factory, occasionally hammering them out himself. He kept most accurate records of all his patients, not only those operated upon, but others as well. In his books of case records he criticized his colleagues with utmost candor. No doubt he considered these records private, and he had no hesitation in criticizing severely the treatment of any patient in whose case he had succeeded another physician or surgeon. This same spirit of criticism of his professional brethren which pervaded his records, he carried out in his communication with patients; and this brought him a heritage of hatred from most of his colleagues.

Walter's enthusiasm for good surgery and his properly high estimation of his own

skill led him to stop patients on the street and ask them who was their doctor and to inform them that they had been improperly treated. It has often been charged that Walter never failed to "play to the galleries"; certainly many of his cases got into the newspapers. In one case a patient was brought up the river on a steamboat, with a surgeon in charge. The man had sustained a crushed leg which had been encircled by a coil of rope. Dr. Walter asked the surgeon who brought the patient, what he thought should be done in the case. The answer was that the leg should be amputated. Dr. Walter replied in a boastful way: "Nonsense, I will save the man's limb." The next day the patient was dead and Dr. Walter had made a lifelong enemy of the surgeon, who afterwards attained some prominence.

Walter at one time implanted peas in the subcutaneous tissues of a patient with tuberculosis of the knee. The peas were said to have germinated, as Walter hoped, but the result was, of course, a failure. The patient, greatly dissatisfied, entered suit against Walter. This afforded an opportunity for many of Walter's surgical colleagues

to get even with him and they were rejoiced to testify against him in court. If one wonders why Walter adopted a treatment so obviously foolish, the answer is this: Tuberculosis of the knee was exceedingly stubborn to treatment of all sorts, and in trying out this remedy, Walter was following the recommendation of several of the highest authorities on surgery of his day.

Walter had learned from his old teacher, Dieffenbach, a new method of correcting deformities of the human body by subcutaneous division of tendons; and this method he at once practiced in Pittsburgh, very extensively and with great success. Indeed, he had already, during his stay in Nashville, done considerable orthopedic surgery, having corrected a number of club feet; and these operations were the earliest, or among the earliest, of the kind performed in America.

Orthopedic surgery, for which his ingenuity and imagination peculiarly fitted him, enlisted Walter's deepest interest. Many plaster casts showing deformed limbs before and after treatment were to be seen in the Museum of the Medical School of the University of Pittsburgh, and they bore

silent testimony to his skill, consuming energy and unbounded enthusiasm.

The story is told that Walter, soon after his arrival in Pittsburgh, met on the street a tall Irishman, whose legs were terribly deformed. The doctor persuaded the Irishman to permit him to operate, at first on one leg only, and this proving a great success, the patient was only too glad to permit him to operate on the other leg. Dr. Joseph Gazzam, who assisted Dr. Walter, was profoundly impressed by the success of this operation.

Dr. Walter was a man of fierce courage. He feared nothing or no one. On one occasion, his neighbor, Dr. W. H. Daly, having some grievance against him because of his treatment of a patient, crossed the street and, entering Walter's office, demanded a retraction of the professional slander. Walter picked up a heavy paper weight and was about to strike Daly with it when Daly told him if he attempted to use that paper weight it would be the last act of his life. Dr. H. H. Clark was an eye witness to this occurrence and states that notwithstanding Walter's great courage, he showed his belief that discretion was the better part of valor and laid down the paper weight.

Dr. Clark, who was intimately associated with Walter, studied medicine under him, dressed his surgical patients for three years, kept his books, collected his bills, and was his general factotum, states that notwithstanding his arrogance, his unpopularity, his selfishness in the treatment of other members of the profession, he was the greatest surgeon that ever practiced in Pittsburgh, consideration being given to the limitations of surgical knowledge of that day. Walter's chief aim in life was, in the opinion of Dr. Clark, not the acquisition of money; that while he did like financial rewards, these were to him a secondary consideration. He was consumed with interest in, and love for, good surgery; and it was this thing that made him so impatient of much of the surgery he saw about him and the producers of it. His disgust and contempt for many of the surgeons was very deep and generally outspoken. He did not hesitate to advise people to bring malpractice suits and often testified in court in such suits, although he complained bitterly when such suits were brought against him. In short, Walter more or less questioned the right of anyone else to practice surgery in

the town, but this feeling was not extended to physicians who confined their labor to medicine.

Walter established a private hospital in a building which still stands on Bluff Street, near Duquesne University. Dr. Charles Emmerling, with his wife and several children, lived in this hospital for a short time while he and Walter were in partnership. This arrangement was of short duration; Dr. Emmerling found the place too cold and uncomfortable for himself and family and the arrangement uncongenial.

Walter's medical career in Pittsburgh was one of great activity; the story of his skill, energy, resourcefulness and versatility must draw from the reader, even at this date, a tribute of homage and admiration for this great man. He published many magazine articles and two notable books, in one of which, "Fractures of Bones," he advocated the use of silver plates, far in advance of his time. Another, entitled "Conservative Surgery," was published in 1867. This work he dedicated to S. D. Gross of Philadelphia and James Syme of Edinburgh. It is to be noted that Walter's contributions were made to the foremost journals of the



THE BUILDING IN WHICH DR. WALTER CONDUCTED HIS PRIVATE HOSPITAL.



day, among them being the *British Medical Journal*, *The Medical and Surgical Reporter* and *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, the first of these published in 1857 and the last a year after his death, in 1877. It will be seen that he clearly recognized the fundamental necessity for cleanliness in surgery; he was fully ready to appreciate Pasteur's and Lister's work and, indeed, to act upon it. It is not too much to say that, had Walter lived, aseptic surgery would have been introduced in Pittsburgh and become general twenty years before it actually did come into general use.

His ingenuity, courage and skill are well revealed in a report entitled "Arthroplastic Operation upon both Femurs below the Great Trochanter." Walter reviews the literature on the subject and then reports a case as follows:

"Patient was a man of 31 years of age, who from the tenth year suffered from ankylosis of both hip joints, the femurs being fixed at right angles to the pelvis." By operation (July, 1875) Walter created an artificial joint below the hip joint. After the first operation "very free suppuration occurred and continued for two or three

weeks, but eight weeks after the operation the patient had completely recovered. Operation was performed on the other leg September, 1875." In June, 1876, the condition of the patient was very favorable: "He is able to get out of bed without assistance and can stand upon his feet and walk with crutches better than ever." The paper was accompanied by an interesting photograph.

Walter refers to the reports of his first case of true bony ankylosis, in which he had "opportunity to save and relieve, by removal of a section of the trochanter major."

In 1874 Dr. R. J. McCready, who afterward became the well-known pioneer in tracheotomy and skilled in the insertion of the O'Dwyer tube, and who had then been in practice only ten months, called Walter to his assistance in a case of diphtheria. Dr. Walter performed a tracheotomy. The patient made a good recovery from the operation and is living today.

Walter's versatility as a surgeon is at once revealed when it is realized that he was one of the earliest pioneers in America in the field of orthopedic surgery, a skilled oculist, and a most resourceful general surgeon. It

ALBERT G. WALTER

is said that, up to the time of his death, he had cut more tendons in one patient than any other living surgeon. His fame as an accident surgeon was nation-wide.

But Walter's chief claim to distinction is the epoch-making laparotomy which he performed for the relief of ruptured bladder, the patient making a good recovery. Walter is generally credited as having first performed this operation and as his report is one of historical interest, liberal quotations are made from it as it appears in the *Medical and Surgical Reporter* of November 16, 1861.

CASE OF RUPTURE OF THE BLADDER, TREATED BY  
ABDOMINAL SECTION

John Borland, 22 years of age, blacksmith by trade, of healthy constitution, and strong muscular development, was kicked during a fight, on the lower part of the abdomen, on January 12, 1859. Immediately on receipt of the injury, he became weak and faintish, complaining of violent pain in the region of the bladder. Some hours later, being called to see him, I found the following condition of the patient: The abdomen, without showing any marks of external violence, was somewhat swollen and exquisitely tender to the touch, more particu-

larly over the pubis, where the injury had been received. His pulse was quick and small, skin cool, respiration short and rapid, incessant were the painful calls at micturition with inability to discharge urine. There was vomituri-  
tion and vomiting; at first the contents of the stomach, afterwards a slimy, bilious fluid was ejected. On the introduction of a catheter, some bloody urine was drawn off without any relief of abdominal pains, or the constant urging calls to make water. These being the symptoms, no doubt was entertained that the bladder had been ruptured by the violent blow from the point of the foot, and that urine had extravasated in large quantities into the abdominal cavity (the patient having been in the habit of retaining his urine for a long time, and in the present instance for more than six hours). . . .

Ten hours after the receipt of the injury, assisted by Dr. Guenste chloroformisation having been induced, the abdomen was opened in the linea alba by an incision, beginning one inch below the umbilicus, and terminating about one inch above the pubes, to the extent of six inches. The intestines were found inflated, their peritoneal coat, as well as that lining the interior of the abdominal walls already showed marks of congestion. A soft sponge then cautiously introduced into the abdomen, with which the extravasated fluid, consisting of urine and

blood, was carefully removed from the pelvis, and between the convolutions of the bowels, amounting to near a pint. While thus inspecting the abdominal cavity, a rent was found in the fundus of the bladder of two inches' extent, through which the urine had escaped. The cavity of the abdomen being cleansed of the noxious agent, the wound of the bladder was left to itself, as no urine was seen to escape from it. The abdominal wound was closed by strong Carlsbad needles, secured by silver wire (only skin and fascia being stitched, while the peritoneum was left untouched). A flannel bandage encircled the whole abdomen. The patient awakening out of the anesthetic sleep, felt relieved of pain and desire to urinate, so distressing before the operation. Vomiting did not return. Opium again in one grain doses every hour was ordered. Abstinence from drink and perfect quietude of body, with retention of the catheter, were strictly insisted upon. He soon began to doze, had a comfortable night, was free from pain the next morning, complaining only of soreness of the abdomen, without tympanites, sickness or calls to urinate, thirst less urgent. . . .

At the expiration of two weeks, with the absence of all pain and tenderness, opium was omitted. The intestines were relieved by warm water injections on the tenth day, when mild nourishment was ordered. Between the second

and third week the catheter was permanently withdrawn, and only introduced every four hours for the evacuation of the urine. After the third week, the patient left his bed, feeling restored to health and drawing off his urine himself every four hours. He has remained well every since, working at his trade, and feeling no impediment in his urinary organs.

In this clear and simple manner, Walter records an operation performed in 1858 which was to be epoch-marking. For the first time in the history of surgery, an intact abdominal wall was opened for the treatment of ruptured bladder. The Nestor among Pittsburgh surgeons of today, Dr. John J. Buchanan, commenting on this report, calls attention to the fact that while modern methods require intraperitoneal suture of the bladder, Walter deliberately refrained from such suture. His suture did not include the peritoneum, the reason being that at that time suture of the peritoneum was considered a dangerous procedure.

Dr. J. B. Murdoch, in his presidential address before the State Medical Society in 1890, says: "In 1858, when there was no precedent for such procedure, he boldly cut open the abdomen, washed out the peri-

toneal cavity, drained the bladder by a catheter retained in the urethra. The patient recovered. This operation was not repeated until eighteen years later and is now recognized as the proper treatment for such an injury.”<sup>1</sup>

The *Pittsburgh Dispatch* of November 8, 1886, contains a cable from London describing a remarkable operation performed by Sir William MacCormac of the Royal College of Surgeons: “It is believed there are no previous instances of success of such an operation in Europe or America.” The cable goes on to state that Sir William MacCormac diagnosed the patient’s condition as rupture of the bladder. He then made an incision into the abdomen and verified the diagnosis. The bladder was drawn out and sutured. The patient made a good recovery.

At the meeting of the Allegheny County Medical Society in February, 1887, the Committee on Intelligence reported Sir William MacCormac’s two cases of successful abdominal section for intraperitoneal rupture of the bladder and commented upon the novelty of the operation as follows: “Within a stone’s throw of the building in

<sup>1</sup> *Pittsburgh Med. Rev.*, July, 1890.

which the Society sat, stands the house of the late Dr. Albert G. Walter, who twenty-five years ago opened the abdomen of a man with ruptured bladder with success and reported the case in the *Medical and Surgical Reporter* for that year, 1861. It is the first authentic case of the kind in the history of surgery.”

In the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, February 26, 1887, Dr. Thos. S. K. Morton, in a paper on “Abdominal Section for Traumatism,” speaks of Dr. Walter as the pioneer in this work, and the correspondent of the *Medical Record* writing from London, under date of February 5, 1887, commenting on the cases that were the subject of the report of the Allegheny County Society, gives Dr. Walter the credit justly due him. Truly, “A prophet is not without honor save in his own country.”<sup>1</sup>

In the preface of his work on “Conservative Surgery” Walter says:

Having ardently and almost exclusively engaged in the profession of Surgery, to which more than thirty years of faithful labor, in public and private practice, have been devoted, in a locality, too, where accidents and injuries

<sup>1</sup>*Pittsburgh Med. Rev.*, March, 1887.

caused by machinery were unusually frequent, the author, in treating *these* cases, soon became convinced that the efforts of *Nature* at salvation and restoration, in injuries, especially in those of a grave character, and *her* conservative aims, on which the surgeon alike as the physician, has mainly to rely, in order to lead the case to recovery, has, alas! been too often either overlooked, or plainly misunderstood.

The plan advocated by Walter is sufficiently revealed by the following quotations from his opening chapter:

If conservation be attempted, that, *first* of all, *free vent* must be given by *long* and *deep* incisions, for the escape of effused blood confined under the fascia, between muscles, and in the cellular tissues of the skin, and that all attempts to bring the soft parts together, when lacerated or cut, by stitches, be *strictly* and absolutely discarded.

A limb, thus injured, should be placed, without delay, in its whole length upon a well cushioned sheet-iron or tin splint, and the detached pieces of bone followed by resection of their shattered extremities—if splintered, very obliquely fractured, or extensively denuded of periosteum—removed. The *wound* should then be freely enlarged (slitting up skin and fascia) or, if no breach of surface should exist, but more

bruising and swelling be present, indicating the extent and severity of the injury, a free incision in the long axis of the limb should at once be made through dermis and fascia, which will liberate the muscles, blood vessels and nerves, from the pressure of blood effused in the areolar meshes of the different tissues, and give relief to the subsequent swelling of muscles, and extravasation of serum, which always follow in the course of such injuries, with gangrenous destruction of the skin and fascia superadded.

*Free, deep and early* incisions (the more timely made the better) are, I aver, the *only* measures deserving the name *conservative*, in injuries of this character. Next to them, *warmth*, by warm water dressings (medicated or simple) or by poultices, promptly and assiduously applied, is claimed as an important adjunct. Under its genial and soothing influence, the feeble vitality of crushed and mangled limbs will be roused, local arterial circulation excited and revivication induced, venous congestion relieved, elimination promoted, and suppuration, with cicatrization expedited. Cold applications, under these circumstances, cannot fail to extinguish the quivering sparks of life which are left in the member, and hasten its destruction.

Enthusiasm and great, earnest and deep conviction of the author are well revealed

in these brief paragraphs from the opening chapter:

Many, very many are the limbs and lives that might have been saved, if due weight had been given to the incontestable fact, that the *unyielding* nature of the *fascia*, which envelops the muscles and supports them for the performance of their functions, is the main source of danger to the injured limb, and that free division of aponeurotic structure, in all severe injuries, occasioned either by shot or any other crushing power, is the only *safeguard* to limb and life of the wounded.

Then follows a recital of a large number of cases in which the author illustrates many times over the method of treatment which he so eloquently advocates. The cases are not numbered as they would be in works of today, but they are designated with full, and presumably real, names of the patients. The description of patient and injury are brief and quaint, as shown by the following few examples:

Felix Holler, of Pittsburgh, aged fourteen years, a healthy and well formed boy, while seeking shelter under a warehouse in course of erection, on July 26th, 1850, during a heavy thunder storm, was buried by a mass of brick

which fell upon him from one side of the building caving in.

John Carson, aged thirty years, merchant, on December 26th, 1851, fell through the hatchway of his store, upon the floor below, during a bitter cold night while in an intoxicated condition, and remained there, helpless, for four hours, exposed to intense frost, before he could be removed to his room.

Philip Smith, aged twelve and a half years, of Coal Hill, Upper St. Clair Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, of slender frame and bilious temperament, was severely injured, on June 3rd, 1854, while at work in a coal-pit, by a heavy piece of slate falling upon him.

Christian Reber, aged twenty-three years, puddler by trade, very tall, slender and healthy, of bilious habit and nervo-sanguineous temperament, on October 17th, 1855, while engaged at his furnace in a rolling mill, in West Pittsburgh, was struck on the back part of the right leg by a large piece of rock thrown from a hill in the rear of the works, which was being removed by blasting.

After describing his clinical cases, Walter proceeds to notice the methods lately proposed by Joseph Lister of Glasgow, Scotland, for the treatment of wounds and injuries, which were influenced by the

theory of minute organisms of Pasteur. He tells us that Lister thinks he has found in carbolic acid an agent which can protect the wound from germs floating in the air and that this acid acts as an antidote; the theory is supported by James Syme and other eminent European authorities.

Notwithstanding the fame of these two men, to one of whom his book is dedicated, Walter proceeds to argue against the carbolic acid spray as an application of this theory and to set forth his own views in the following significant language. It will be observed that Walter argues, not against the germ theory, but against the method of procedure to combat germs which was then in vogue and which is now obsolete, and that he was again ahead of his time in arguing for the great value of sunshine and fresh air and for cleanliness.

*Pure* air, therefore, I have no hesitation in declaring, is not only harmless, but priceless to man, and to all the rest of creation, whether in a healthy or an afflicted condition. Like the rain drops descending from the great laboratory of heaven—the air, sweet, pure and healthful—is refreshing, invigorating and gladdening to all the inhabitants of this beautiful globe. Its free

and unrestrained access to wounds and injuries, then cannot be the cause of these direful complications—erysipelas, phlegmon, gangrene, phlebitis, or pyaemia—which are known to ensue in so many cases.

*Poison mingled with the air*, then, and not *pure air*, is the enemy the surgeon has to contend with in the management of surgical injuries, whether in hospitals or in other unhealthy localities; the only antidote for which, and the only method of averting its injurious effects on wounds, and on the system at large, being the prompt removal of the patient to a place free from all contaminating influences.

This appears to my mind a reasonable and logical deduction, which ample experience, revealed in previous pages, has strengthened. The view of this subject here taken, I feel gratified to state, is shared by Mr. Canniff of Canada who in the *Canada Medical Journal* of a late date made some excellent remarks regarding Prof. Lister's practice.

Walter's closing words are sad enough:

Having devoted years of study and toil to the salvation of limbs severely, nay, almost hopelessly injured, which but for the conservative practice I advocate, would have been maimed, I cannot deny the gratification I feel in thus being enabled to add one more laurel to the brow of

Conservatism—bright, enduring and priceless as any she wears.

If saving the limb or life of the humblest citizen, by unusual efforts deserves commendation, the principle and practice by which a *whole class of injuries* is rescued from mutilation, danger and death, certainly stands unrivaled. This principle and practice it has been my aim to establish; and that I have succeeded cannot in candor be denied me. Though cherishing it as a great boon to the unfortunate patient, worthy of being promulgated, I do not claim credit; but conscious of having contributed my mite for the relief of the maimed, I would consider myself derelict in duty by withholding its publication!

That my humble, laborious and protracted exertions, devoted to a noble cause should have provoked aspersions and detractions, in special quarters, however, is not to be wondered at. But having succeeded in my efforts, with the result laid open to professional scrutiny, I can well afford to be charitable to those of the profession, who, unwilling to investigate, seek renown only in mutilation and destruction. With such I hold no communion. To the intelligent surgeons alone, I offer these pages and invoke them as judges of the merits.

Dr. H. N. Malone, of Pittsburgh, has in his possession a large number of colored original drawings with closely written notes

by Walter. The drawings show a high grade of artistic merit.

The lessons to be drawn from the life of Walter are, for the most part, obvious. His faults were open and glaring: he was intolerant and greatly lacking in consideration for his colleagues and he was highly egotistical. But, on the other hand, he was a man of remarkable talent and marvelous industry, a genius. It was his love of surgery and his ability to do it well, combined with his driving energy, that made him impatient and blinded him to the rights of colleagues, and so led him to fail to conform to professional etiquette. True, his criticisms were generally well taken, for surgery in Walter's day was for the most part badly done; but it is to be deplored that they were not more tactfully expressed. Had he possessed the qualities of leadership, he might have had the profession solidly behind him, for he is easily the outstanding figure in the medical annals of Pittsburgh and indeed his life stands out as a great beacon light in the surgical history of the United States. So in viewing the life of this great pioneer in surgery, let us with the mantle of charity cover his faults, remembering only his legacy to suffering humanity.

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## VIII

### PHYSICIANS OF PITTSBURGH FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT DAY

INCE it is my purpose to record the earlier, rather than the later, history of medicine, I make only brief mention of physicians from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present time. More extended biographies of the individuals mentioned may be found in monographs by Dr. Clement R. Jones and Dr. T. D. Davis.

Dr. E. A. Wood was a most versatile physician, one of the founders of the Medical College.

Dr. Andrew Fleming was born in Pittsburgh in 1830 and studied under Dr. Gazzam. He was an accomplished gentleman and was one of the first publicly to advocate the establishment of a medical school in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Thomas Mabon and his son, John Mabon, and the latter's son, Thomas

Mabon, constitute one of the medical families of distinction of this section.

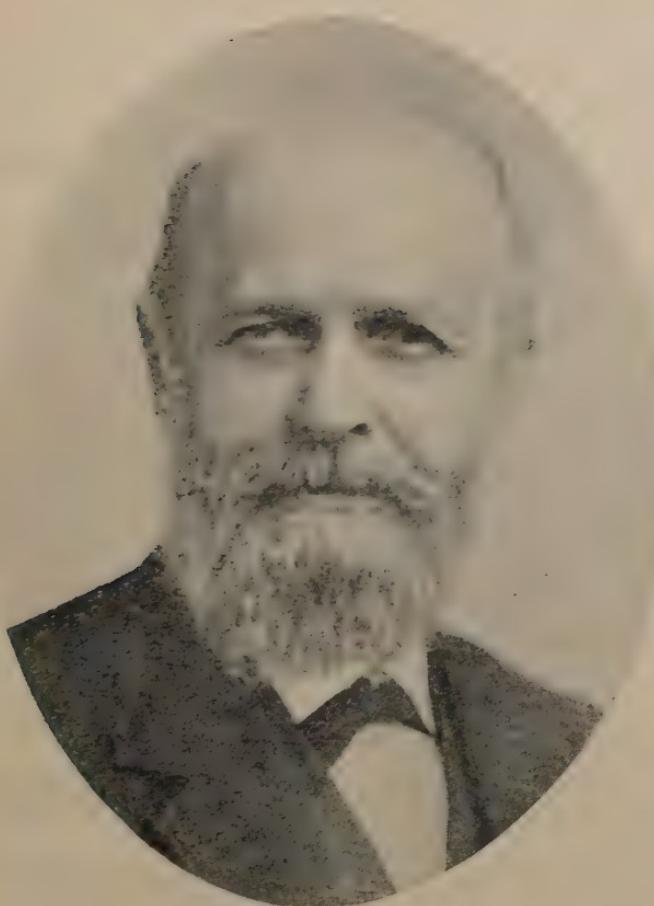
Dr. Cyrus B. King, on account of his splendid personality, his interest in surgery, in the West Penn Medical College and his long service on the State Board of Charities won for himself a high place in the records of the medical profession.

Dr. Silas N. Benham was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, in 1840 and served as surgeon during the Civil War. He helped organize the Pittsburgh Dispensary.

Dr. James McCann, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, was born in Allegheny County in 1837 and became a surgeon of the first rank. He was largely instrumental in organizing the Western Pennsylvania Medical College.

Dr. A. M. Pollock settled in Pittsburgh in 1871 where he led a long, active and useful life.

Dr. James B. Murdoch was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1830 and died in Pittsburgh in 1896. He practiced medicine in Oswego, New York, until 1872 when he removed to Pittsburgh and practiced until his death. He was one of the founders of the Western Pennsylvania Medical School and author of several important monographs.



ANDREW FLEMING.

STUDENT OF J. P. GAZZAM. IN A PAPER READ BEFORE THE NATHANIEL BEDFORD MEDICAL SOCIETY IN 1865, HE PROPOSED THE ORGANIZATION OF A MEDICAL SCHOOL IN PITTSBURGH. THE CLUB VOTED THAT THE PAPER BE PUBLISHED IN THE *Commercial Journal*.



He practiced and advocated the torsion of arteries.

Dr. Thomas Wilson Shaw was born in Glenshaw in 1826 and was in active practice for nearly fifty years.

Dr. Charles Stoner Shaw, son of Thomas W. Shaw, was born in 1856 and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1879. He died in 1899.

Dr. Shaw was a man of high ideals and stood for all that is best and highest in the medical profession. With a view to do battle in its cause and to stimulate the observance of the code of ethics, the more especially as to its bearing on nostrum advertising in the medical press, he with some half dozen others of the younger physicians of Pittsburgh, organized in December, 1885, *The Pittsburgh Medical Review*, a monthly periodical owned and controlled entirely by the editors. Dr. Shaw was recognized as editor-in-chief of this publication and under his vigorous efforts, directed especially at the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the board of trustees of that journal gradually eliminated the more obnoxious advertisements until its pages were practically freed from all those which the code of

ethics forbids. His contribution to medical literature partook largely of the nature of editorials together with papers on general medicine and pediatrics.

Dr. James A. Lippincott was born in Nova Scotia in 1840. He is a man of singular charm and large learning. He entered the field of ophthalmology and attained nation-wide reputation.

Dr. X. O. Werder was born in Switzerland in 1857 and was one of the first in Pittsburgh to make a specialty of gynecology, in which he attained a high position.

Dr. Eugene Matson was born in Brookville, in 1858. He was a man of high scholarly attainments, of philosophic attitude of mind, modest and idealistic, ever striving for the advancement of medical science and the better things in life. He was unmarried and alone and gave his entire thought and energies to the science which he loved. His influence was a strong element in conquering the incidence of typhoid fever, whose endemic and annual epidemics, during the early years of his professional life, demanded hundreds of victims annually in the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. His activities and influence in establishing the filtration

plant, which put an end to the typhoid fever plague in Pittsburgh, were unceasing and thus aided in saving many valuable lives annually. He was universally esteemed and admired for his qualities of mind and heart and his untimely death was mourned by all who knew him.

Dr. Robert Wray Stewart was born in 1861. He reorganized the surgical staff of Mercy Hospital in 1890. His career began with the era of antiseptic surgery and he was quick to recognize the value of this contribution to surgical technique.

Dr. W. H. Daly was the first physician in Pittsburgh to make a specialty of throat diseases. He was widely travelled and a man of most congenial habits; so that he was not only an agreeable colleague but a delightful companion. His name was associated with considerable notoriety on account of the exposure of the beef scandal which developed during and after the Spanish-American War.

Another notable physician of this time was R. Stansbury Sutton, who was a pioneer figure in gynecology in Pittsburgh. Dr. Sutton was full of enthusiasm and zeal. He was somewhat lacking in tact and a sense of humor and every now and then he and his

friend Dr. Daly would have a little tilt, more or less amusing to their friends.

Dr. Charles Emmerling exemplifies in the finest way the skill, integrity and patient perseverance and resourcefulness which belongs to the practitioner of the old school. He worked with indefatigable industry to an advanced age, leaving behind him a record which is a credit to himself and the whole profession. His son Karl succeeded to his practice.

Drs. Thomas, Duff and W. S. Husleton are also contemporaries of these men whose names deserve recording because of their fine achievements.

Among other outstanding figures in medicine in the nineteenth century may be mentioned the following: Dr. W. R. Hamilton, a man rugged in mind and body, a railroad surgeon of the old-fashioned type, strong, resourceful, emphatic, and domineering. Drs. T. D. Davis and W. S. Foster were keenly interested in medical organization and did much to foster it; both served as presidents of the State medical society.

## IX

### EARLY PHYSICIANS LOCATED NEAR PITTSBURGH OUTSIDE ALLEGHENY COUNTY

EFERENCE has already been made to Dr. Joseph Doddridge, Dr. Cephas Dodd and Dr. Jacob Jennings, who ministered to both the souls and bodies of men, none of whom practiced in Pittsburgh. The career of Dr. John Knight of Fayette has also been recorded as well as those of members of the Marchand and LeMoyne families.

Uniontown, Fayette County, situated at the foot of the Western slope of the mountains and on the line of Braddock's route, in the midst of an excellent farming district, attracted early settlers, with whom came a pioneer physician in the person of Dr. Samuel Sackett. He had been surgeon in the American Army and came west from Connecticut in 1781. He was in active practice in the vicinity of Uniontown about forty years and died in 1833.

About four years earlier than this Dr. Henry Moore was practicing in Buffalo township, Washington County. The incident of his trepanning the head of a little girl whose skull had been fractured by an Indian is recorded. He died in Washington, Pennsylvania.

Dr. John Postlethwait was born in Carlisle in 1776 and graduated from the College and University of Pennsylvania. Having travelled westward with the expedition sent to curb the whiskey insurrection, and being delighted with the region, he crossed the mountain after his medical education was finished in 1797 and located at Greensburg where he practiced until his death in 1842.

Dr. John Culbertson Wallace was the first resident physician at Erie. He was a native of Harrisburg and graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1796 he accompanied General Wayne in an expedition to Fort Wayne, Indiana, as surgeon. He afterwards practiced his profession three years in Franklin and thence moved to Erie. He rose to prominence, commanded an Erie County regiment at the beginning of the War of 1812 and died in 1826, leaving no family.

Dr. T. G. Symonds settled in Franklin in 1800. Nothing is now known of his subsequent career. For some time the county (Venango) was without a physician, after which period Dr. Thomas Smith settled there and administered to the sick of that immediate period.

Dr. John Knight settled in Fayette County in 1776, as has already been noted. Dr. James Francis settled there on a farm in North Union Township in 1789 and died greatly honored in 1813. Among his students were Dr. Benjamin Dorsey, Daniel Sturgeon, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Wright. Daniel Sturgeon was a graduate of Jefferson College and succeeded to the practice of Dr. Stevens. Dr. Young was another early physician of Fayette County and also kept a stock of drugs for the public. Dr. Jesse Pennell practiced for a period of years in Bridgeport, Fayette County, but died in 1818 of typhoid fever, which was then epidemic in that county. Dr. Adam Simonton came on from the east before 1795 and practiced in Uniontown until his death in 1808, respected and loved by his community. The career of that notable pioneer physician, Dr. Doddridge, has already been narrated.

Passing into Washington County, it is found that Dr. Absalom Baird studied with Dr. Gardner Scott of Chester County, who raised a company of volunteers for the Revolutionary army of which Dr. Baird became a member, and was soon afterwards appointed assistant surgeon in a Pennsylvania regiment. Towards the close of the war he began to practice in Kennett Square, Chester County, and in 1786 removed to Washington, Pennsylvania, where he was killed by falling from a horse in 1805. Dr. Jacob Green was a physician in Springhill Township, Washington County,<sup>1</sup> but little is known of him except that his name appears on the tax roll of 1786. Dr. Hugh Thompson was an early settler in Peter's Township, Washington County, where he was a large land owner and long in practice. Dr. Alex Gaston practiced in Canton Township, Washington County, many years and then removed to Ohio. Dr. John Culbertson settled in Washington, Pennsylvania, in 1784 but soon removed to Independence Township, where he practiced more than thirty years.

<sup>1</sup> Now Greene County.

## X

## EPIDEMICS

S might be readily expected, Pittsburgh, with its lack of sanitary arrangements, was subject to contagious disease, and I must in this place record several epidemics which visited the town from time to time.

## CHOLERA

In 1832 the Asiatic cholera made its appearance in Philadelphia and New York, and occasioned great alarm in Pittsburgh. In June, 1832, the ministry of Pittsburgh assembled and recommended a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer "that God avert the danger threatening the country from Asiatic cholera." The city authorities passed ordinances for a rigid enforcement of sanitary measures. Drs. James Agnew, Adam Hays and James Speer, S. R. Holmes and H. D. Sellers were appointed consulting physicians to the Sanitary Board of which Samuel Pettigrew was president and E. J.

Roberts, secretary. At this time the Sanitary Board had not been incorporated and was functioning only by appointment of the city council. Dr. Jonas R. McClintock was appointed physician. Steps were taken to reorganize the Sanitary Board and to establish a temporary free dispensary. Concert Hall on Penn Avenue was engaged for the latter purpose. Appropriations were made to put the city in the best possible condition to fight this infection.

On October 22, 1832, a negro from Cincinnati died of cholera in Pittsburgh and the infection began to spread in spite of the utmost exertions of the physicians and the city authorities. By the twenty-sixth, five cases had appeared and three deaths resulted. During the next two months from twenty-five to thirty-five persons died but the scourge was then checked. In May, 1833, it reappeared, although rigid and systematic precautions had been taken in its prevention. From May to June 25 there appeared seventeen cases, of which five were outsiders, and by July 1 eight deaths had occurred. The epidemic seemed to have gained a strong foothold by this time, as it was stated in the newspapers of July 5 that

twenty-three residents and five outsiders had died. Dr. James Speer was very active and prominent as the hospital doctor at this time. Trouble arose between the practicing physicians and the Sanitary Board. In the autumn of 1832 the latter accused the former of neglecting to report cases of cholera which they encountered in their practice and repeated the accusation in 1833. In July Drs. Joseph Gazzam and E. D. Gazzam said: "Since the recent reappearance of the disease in Pittsburgh 36 cases of fully developed cholera have occurred in our practice. Of these, six cases are now remaining, five of which are convalescing and one doubtful. So far as our observation and experience extend the disease as yet is more manageable and more easy of cure than it was last fall."

The Board of Health pursued a course which was condemned by reputable physicians. In the autumn of 1832 the Gazzams reported a case and ordered the patient to the hospital. The Sanitary Board refused to accept the judgment of the physicians, using unnecessary and unjust measures in their observations and sent the health physician to examine the case and report

thereon. The latter states that it was a case of common cholera (*morbus*) whereupon, although five other reputable physicians corroborated the Gazzams' diagnosis, admission to the hospital was refused. This act roused the physicians, and thereafter they refused to report cases of cholera coming under their practice. They were sharply criticized by the Board of Health, whereupon Dr. Gazzam replied as follows: "We are not and never have been indisposed to give the public every information in our power in relation to the epidemic, but we cannot consent to modify, change or pervert our deliberate opinions respecting its true nature to gratify popular prejudices or to suit the crude and various notions of those who have no knowledge of the subject; nor can we consent to submit again our medical opinions or reports to the judgment and supervision of such tribunals."

In June, 1833, the churches observed a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer "that God would end the plague or pass it by Pittsburgh." Hydrants in all parts of the city were permitted to run one hour each day to cleanse the walks, gutters and streets. The building of the temporary hospital this

## EPIDEMICS

year cost \$400. Thomas O'Neal was superintendent of the Hospital; Drs. Armstrong and Bruce were hospital physicians, and Dr. Jonas McClintock health physician. The *Gazette* said of the disease: "Wheeling, Maysville and Lexington, with a population not exceeding 18,000, lost more persons in a single day than Pittsburgh and vicinity lost by the same disease (cholera in two years and two separate visits of the scourge). An experienced physician assures us that he has never seen a genuine indigenous case of that loathsome disease, the itch, since he came here and that cholera infantum does not prevail to one-tenth part of the extent in other towns East and West. By the report of the health physician it appears that 44 deaths by malignant cholera have occurred in this city and neighboring boroughs and villages since the end of May." It is impossible to give the exact number of cases of cholera or the exact number of deaths because the newspapers deliberately suppressed the extent of the scourge and no other record is known to exist. Business was seriously interfered with, in fact was almost at a standstill, while the epidemic lasted. Probably a total of over one hundred cases

were reported and seventy-five deaths occurred in 1833.

In 1848 the cholera again visited Pittsburgh. As before the newspapers suppressed the extent of the scourge. Business was wholly suspended and not a countryman could be seen on the streets. The *Commercial Journal* declared that little attempt had been made to clean the gutters and alleys. After from thirty to fifty people had died in Pittsburgh it suddenly broke out in Birmingham with such virulence that from August 11 to August 21 inclusive, eighteen deaths resulted and the people became terror stricken. Many temporarily retired to rural districts. Later Allegheny was visited and in the one day ending at six o'clock in the evening of August 27 ten persons died. In a short time the deaths in Allegheny numbered forty to fifty. It first appeared in Pittsburgh and then Birmingham and then Allegheny and other portions of this community. It is probable that from one hundred and fifty to two hundred persons died of the epidemic in 1849. In 1851 it again appeared but was vigorously confined and not as many deaths resulted. About this time Dr. J. J. Myers was appointed by the

Secretary of the Treasury, hospital physician of the Marine Hospital. In 1854 this community was again visited by cholera and the dreadful scenes of the former visitation were enacted with much greater mortality. Again the newspapers, through business motives, suppressed the extent and details of that memorable summer and fall. How many died cannot be learned, but the number approximated one thousand.

## SMALLPOX

During the winter of 1845 many cases of smallpox appeared. Part of the old water-works was fitted up for the reception of poor patients by the Directors of the Poor. The building was originally used as a coal shed and was walled up into one room, in which were placed eight or nine beds and in one corner a stove, table and utensils, and so forth. The surroundings were poor, but the room was cheerful and comfortable. Aside from the rude temporary hospital of 1833, this was Pittsburgh's first structure for the care of the indigent sick. It was closed during the summer of 1846, but was opened again in the fall for the reception of patients.

TYPHOID FEVER

In common with many other large cities, Pittsburgh had for many years a high death rate due to typhoid fever. This subject was argued for years and finally resulted in the erection of a filtration plant, from which time dates a very striking reduction of the death rate from typhoid fever. A large share of the credit for this sanitary reform belongs to the *Pittsburgh Medical Review* and its editors, especially Charles S. Shaw, Eugene Matson and Adolph Koenig.

## XI

### MEDICAL SOCIETIES

HE first mention of a medical society which I discovered is that of the Western Medical Society, organized in 1814.

The Pittsburgh Medical Society was organized in June, 1821, and in 1822 Dr. Joel Lewis, who had been in practice eleven years, was elected its second president.

June 24, 1826, the fifth annual meeting of the society was held and the following officers elected: president, William Church; vice president, W. H. Denny; chairman, Felix Brunot; corresponding secretary, John S. Irwin; recording secretary, Henry Hannen; treasurer, W. F. Irwin; librarian, John R. Speer; curators, Drs. Wray and Denny Speer.

Among the most active members of the Pittsburgh Medical Society in the early twenties was L. Callahan, who after practicing a short time returned to Europe, where he studied for three years. Upon his return

to Pittsburgh he was a very learned man and "was licentiate of the faculty of Physicians and Surgeons and member of the faculty of Medicine of Glasgow." In 1821 he read a paper before the Pittsburgh Medical Society in which he contended "that those kinds of fevers usually denominated contagious fevers had their origin in the places where they broke out instead of being imported. In the first place, I would ask the medical philosopher whether or not he had ever seen pure typhus fever prevail as an epidemic where the exciting and predisposing causes were not present on the spot, either in the surrounding atmosphere, the habitudes of the people, their regimen or the privations to which they were exposed? I would confidently expect the answer must be 'No.'" At a subsequent meeting he read articles on "The Use of Hydriodate of Potash in the Treatment of Goitre," "Observations on Inoculation and Vaccination." During the winter of 1829-1830 he delivered a course of lectures by special invitation on the subject of anatomy before one of the literary societies. His practice, as announced, was "Physic, Surgery, and Midwifery."

## MEDICAL SOCIETIES

Dr. Callahan contributed articles on medical subjects to local newspapers.

The Pittsburgh Medical Society in June, 1829, formally resolved to aid by precept and example in suppressing the vice of intemperance.

### ALLEGHENY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Pursuant to call, several of the physicians of Pittsburgh and Allegheny met in Philo Hall August 17, 1848, to consider the propriety of forming a County Medical Society as a branch of the State Medical Society. Dr. Dilworth was made chairman and Dr. Pollock, secretary. On motion of Dr. Dorsey, a committee consisting of Drs. Dilworth, Reed, Gray, Dorsey and Pollock was appointed to arrange for a general meeting of the physicians of the county to organize such a society. Drs. Irwin, Pollock and Bruce were appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws.

The Allegheny Medical Society held its regular quarterly meeting in Arthur's Hall on Tuesday, January 3, 1854. Here the annual election of officers took place, when the following gentlemen were chosen for the ensuing year: president, Dr. C. L. Arm-

strong; vice-presidents, Drs. Joseph Gazzam and John McCracken; corresponding secretary, Dr. A. M. Pollock; recording secretaries, Drs. T. J. Gallagher, E. G. Edrington and G. D. Bruce; examiners, Drs. Joseph Gazzam, A. M. Pollock, D. McMeal; delegates to the National Medical Convention, Drs. Joseph Gazzam, Thomas J. Gallagher, George D. Bruce, A. M. Pollock, George McCook; delegates to the State Convention, Drs. D. McMeal, W. Draine, J. Carothers, J. McCracken, C. F. Williams, J. H. Wilson, T. W. Shaw, N. McDonald, J. H. O'Brien. The following is a list of the members of the Society in 1854:

C. L. Armstrong, William Addison, G. D. Bruce, H. R. Bell, Alexander Black, H. H. Brackenridge, James Carothers, John Dickson, Thomas Dickson, W. Draine, Samuel Dilworth, E. G. Edrington, W. M. Gray, Joseph Gazzam, J. W. Gustine, Thomas J. Gallagher, James B. Herron, W. M. Herron, John S. Irwin, R. B. Mowry, John Martin, William McK. Morgan, J. J. Myers, N. McDonald, G. McCook, F. McGarth, A. C. McCandlass, D. McMeal, John McCracken, J. H. O'Brien, John Pollock, A. M. Pollock,

## MEDICAL SOCIETIES

B. R. Palmer, T. W. Shaw, J. D. Shields, John Wilson, J. H. Wilson, C. F. Williams, and Thomas Perkins.

### NATHANIEL BEDFORD MEDICAL SOCIETY

The first meeting of this society was held December 1, 1864, at the office of Dr. D. N. Rankin, Dr. Harry Coffee acting as secretary.

The next meeting was held a week later and the subject discussed was syphilis. At this meeting Dr. King proposed that this newly organized society be called for Dr. Addison. Dr. Mowry suggested that it be called for Nathaniel Bedford. The decision was postponed. December 15, Dr. Gallagher read a paper on albuminuria. December 22, the Society met at the home of Dr. Jones. At this meeting it was voted that the society be called in honor of Dr. Nathaniel Bedford, the Bedford Medical Society. December 29, Dr. Rankin resigned as a member for the reason that he had no time to attend its meetings. Dr. Jones read a paper on puerperal fever.

January 19, 1865, it was voted that a member absenting himself three nights in a month should be suspended.

January 26 the Society met at Dr. King's office. At this meeting Dr. Fleming read a paper calling for the organization of a medical school in Pittsburgh. The Club voted that the paper be published in the *Commercial Journal*.

February 18, 1865, Dr. Irish declined election for the reason that he could not hear well.

So the minutes of this Club go on week after week, and the last one recorded in the book is of March 30, 1885, by the then secretary, J. A. Lippincott. The Club probably expired after this Meeting.

It is most interesting to note, although this Club was started in 1864, the year before the reorganization of the Allegheny County Medical Society, that it met weekly and that it required of its members who wished to retain membership a pretty steady attendance upon the meetings of the Club. In other words it was a club without any dead wood.

Thus it will be seen that it was the forerunner of the Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine organized in 1888, three years after the last known minutes of the Bedford Club.

This young organization, like the Bedford Club, from the very beginning met once a week, provided a rule eliminating from membership those who habitually absented themselves from meetings. In nature and spirit, it would appear the Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine was the natural successor of the Bedford Medical Society; or in other words, it might be said the Bedford Club organized in 1864 was continued after 1888 as the Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine. The membership was limited to ten members. The original members were: Robert B. Mowry, M. O. Jones, George L. McCook, William A. Hallock, Thomas Gallagher, H. T. Coffee, James King and D. N. Rankin. The first president of the Club was Dr. Mowry and Dr. Coffee the first secretary. The following subsequently served as secretaries of the Club: Harry Coffee, Thomas Gallagher, R. B. Mowry, J. W. Wishart, J. W. Langley, E. S. Riggs, M. O. Jones, B. C. Jillison, A. Fleming, John Semple, D. Leasure, C. B. King, J. C. Rea and J. A. Lippincott.

On September 16, 1876, the Bedford Society passed a resolution, deeply regretting the removal of Dr. Coffee to a distant city and

commending him to his colleagues in his new field of labor. This resolution bears witness to the fact that Dr. Coffee was held in high esteem and deep affection by his colleagues.

The last recorded meeting of the Bedford Society occurred March 20, 1885; on this occasion the following members were present: Mowry, Fleming, Lippincott, King and Philips. The society adjourned to meet the following December with Dr. Semple as president. But it appears this was the last meeting of the Society.

The following list of the subjects discussed at the meetings of the Society sufficiently indicates the wide interest on the part of the members of this fine active, if short-lived, society: Paralysis, Albuminuria, Puerperal Fever, Hysteria, Mortification, Hydrophobia, Dysmenorrhea, Wounds of the Veins, Epidemics of Allegheny County, Geology of Allegheny, Syphilis, Spinal Irritation, Mammary Abscess, Hypertrophy of the Liver, Scarlatina, Asthma, Delayed but not Dangerous Labor, Tedious but not Difficult Labor, The Liver as a Decarbonizing Agent of the Blood, Mortuary Report of Pittsburgh, 1864.

## THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

The Allegheny County Medical Society was organized April 20, 1865, and at this meeting the following officers were elected: president, A. H. Gross; vice-president, M. O. Jones; recording secretary, B. C. Jillison; assistant recording secretary, S. N. Benham; corresponding secretary, R. B. Mowry; treasurer, N. McDonald; censors, G. L. McCook, A. W. Achenbach, J. H. Grouard.

A motion was made that the Society be started as a continuation or revival of the Allegheny Medical Society founded in 1848, which had become defunct. But this motion was defeated and the Society was on April 10, 1865, organized and started as an entirely new organization.

A roster of the Society giving the membership from its organization up to and including 1904 was compiled in 1904 by a committee consisting of J. E. Rigg, Edward Stieren, Walter Donaldson and W. B. Ewing. The charter members were as follows:

A. W. Achenbach, Silas N. Benham, H. T. Coffee, Andrew Fleming, Thomas J. Gallagher, J. H. Grouard, Augustus H. Gross, Benjamin C. Jillison, Matthew O. Jones,

James King, William Francis Knox, D. W. Lewis, George M. Maclean, Robert B. Mowry, George L. McCook, Nesbitt McDonald, H. Neal, and M. R. Trevor.

The presidents of the Allegheny County Medical Society since the organization up to 1900 are as follows:

1865-66, A. H. Gross; 1867, R. B. Mowry; 1868, A. M. Pollock; 1869, H. T. Coffee; 1870, Thomas J. Gallagher; 1871, E. A. Wood; 1872, G. D. Bruce; 1873, J. C. Maginni; 1874, M. O. Jones; 1875, James McCann; 1876, Thomas W. Shaw; 1877, N. McDonald; 1878, A. Fleming; 1879, S. N. Benham; 1880, James King; 1881, William H. Daly; 1882, J. M. Stevenson; 1883, J. D. Thomas; 1884, J. B. Murdoch; 1885, C. B. King; 1886, J. M. Batten; 1887, Thomas Mabon; 1888, W. M. Brinton; 1889, W. F. Knox; 1890, W. S. Foster; 1891, T. D. Davis; 1892, J. C. Lange; 1893, W. S. Husleton; 1893, J. M. Duff; 1896, F. LeMoyné; 1897, A. Koenig; 1898, G. W. McNeil; 1899, J. A. Lippincott.

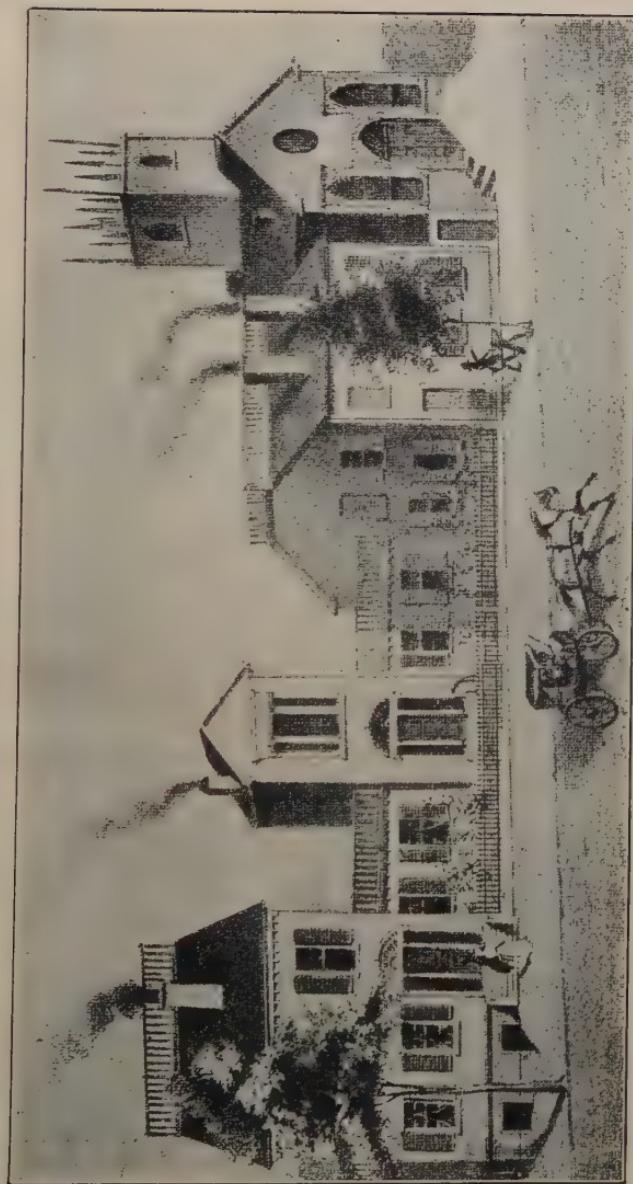
#### OTHER MEDICAL SOCIETIES

The Fortnightly Club was organized in 1882 for social purposes and for discussion



DR. A. H. GROSS.  
FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
MEDICAL SOCIETY, 1865.





PITTSBURGH INFIRMARY, 1849—THE CRADLE.



#### MEDICAL SOCIETIES

of scientific subjects, and although nothing is said in the title to indicate that it was to be a medical society it appears that the members of the society were physicians and that the topics discussed were all medical in character. This Society lived, it appears, two years.

There were a number of smaller societies organized from time to time which flourished for a shorter or longer period, some of them partly social and partly medical in character, all of them aiming to cultivate good fellowship. Among these societies were the Austin Flint Club, the Duquesne Medical Club and the Mott Club.

#### THE PITTSBURGH ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Coming down to a later period, the Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine was organized in 1888. This Society was originally modelled very largely on the plan of the Bedford Club, with a small select membership. It has steadily grown until now its membership is about 150. It owns a house and maintains a fine library, open to the entire profession in this district.

PIONEER MEDICINE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

The College of Physicians and Surgeons, which is founded on much the same lines as the Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine, is similar in its aims and was founded in 1906. Since then it has flourished and besides cultivating the science of medicine, it has aimed, with a large measure of success, to bring together in friendly concourse, not only physicians of this city but of adjacent territory.

## XII

### HOSPITALS, MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND MEDICAL JOURNALS

#### THE PITTSBURGH MEDICAL JOURNAL

HE first number of this journal appeared in December, 1880, with Dr. Robert C. Gallagher as editor and Dr. Charles S. Shaw as associate editor. In the following month, January, 1881, Dr. Shaw withdrew from the position of associate editor. In April, 1891, Dr. Thomas J. Gallagher, father of R. C. Gallagher, became associated with his son and under their editorial supervision the journal was published for three, possibly four years, when it became extinct.

#### PITTSBURGH MEDICAL REVIEW

The first issue of this journal was published December, 1886. The editors and publishers were: X. O. Werder, J. J. Buchanan, P. McGough, C. S. Shaw, Adolph Koenig and J. J. Green.

In 1887 Drs. Hazzard and McGough resigned from the editorial staff and their

places were taken by Dr. E. T. Painter and Dr. A. Pettit.

In 1891 Dr. Painter resigned, and his place was filled by Dr. E. G. Matson. At the beginning of 1893 the editorial staff was decreased in number by the resignations of Drs. Buchanan and Green. In 1894 the staff was again decreased by the resignations of Drs. Werder, Shaw and Pettit; and increased by the addition of Dr. T. M. T. McKennan.

In 1895 Dr. Koenig became sole editor and publisher of the *Review* and continued as such until June, 1897, when the *Review* was transformed into the *Pennsylvania Medical Journal*, and made the official organ of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, the first official organ of a state medical society in the United States. While this journal became the official organ of the medical society of the State of Pennsylvania, it remained the property of the editor and publisher. It continued to be published in this manner until 1904, when Dr. Koenig resigned as editor and transferred the ownership of the journal to the State Medical Society for the consideration of one dollar and the condition that the

advertisements of secret, proprietary or trademarked remedies be forever excluded from the pages of the journal.

The profession in this part of the country owes a deep debt of gratitude to Adolph Koenig. The journal under his guidance stood for the highest and best in medical literature and was a pioneer in taking a stand against the exploitation of proprietary medicines. It stood alone in this position for some years at a time when money from these advertisements was badly needed to carry on the journal. But it never swerved from its course, and finally its policy was adopted by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and is now accepted as a standard of ethics of all high grade, reputable medical journals. This pioneer work of the *Pittsburgh Medical Review* in cleansing our journals of obnoxious advertisements is here recorded with grateful appreciation of the high stand which Dr. Adolph Koenig and his associates, Drs. Werder, Buchanan and Shaw, made at this time.

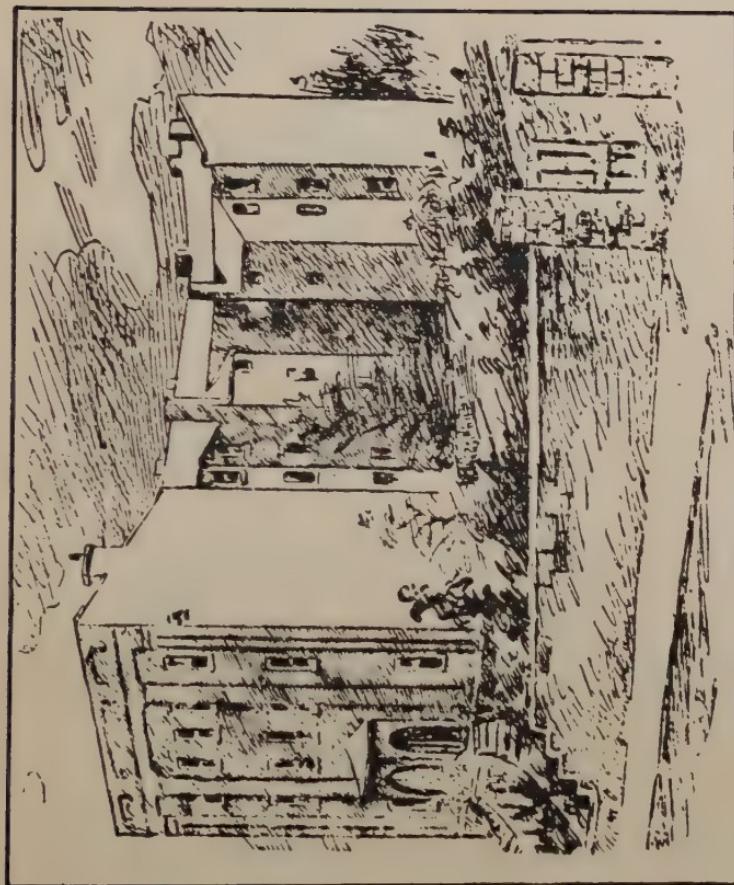
#### HOSPITALS

The first hospital in Pittsburgh has already been referred to, the hospital under

the drawbridge, built in the time of General Hand. Reference has also been made to the hospital accommodation which Dr. Marchand built in connection with his house, at the time of the Revolutionary War. In the year 1833 a temporary hospital to house cholera patients was built in Pittsburgh.

Anything like a full record of the organization and work of the hospitals of this city would make a large record in itself; no attempt will be made to do this since the main purpose of this sketch is to record the early medical history of Western Pennsylvania. I have not the material nor do I feel competent to record the history of our hospitals. So this important part of the history of medicine of Pittsburgh is passed over by making the following brief references to the hospitals of Pittsburgh.

The Mercy Hospital was founded by Bishop Michael O'Connor and began its career in a temporary frame building on Penn Avenue known as Concert Hall in 1847. The following year a permanent building was erected just in time to receive a large number of patients suffering from typhus fever which was then epidemic in Pittsburgh. Eight of the sisters succumbed to the disease.



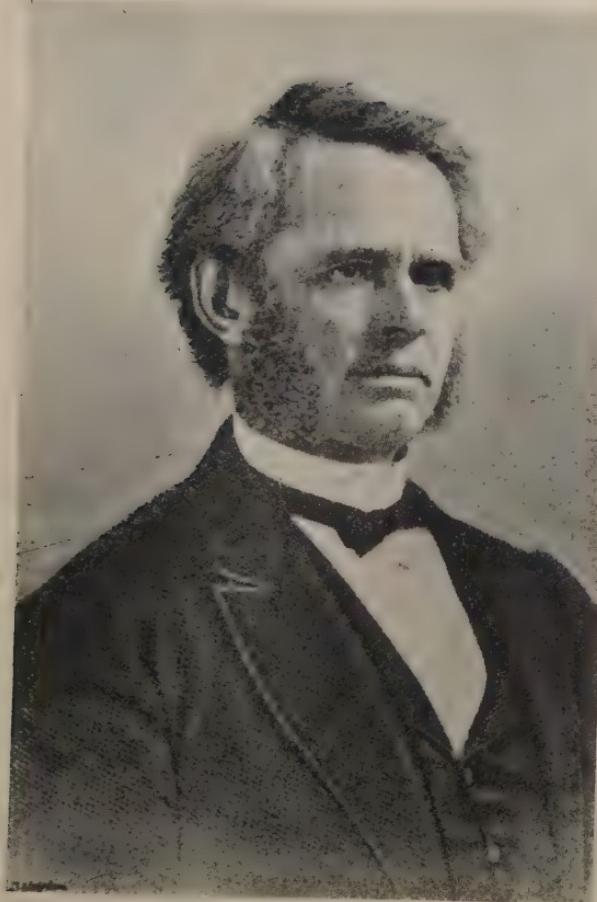
THE FIRST MERCY HOSPITAL, 1848.





BISHOP MICHAEL O'CONNOR.  
FOUNDER OF MERCY HOSPITAL.





DR. JOHN DICKSON.  
ONE OF THE ORIGINAL STAFF OF THE MERCY HOSPITAL.



#### HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND JOURNALS

The members of the first medical staff were Drs. David McMeal, Joseph Gazzam, George Bruce and William Addison, each serving three months in turn. Dr. Thomas Shaw was the first interne.

The Mercy Hospital has rendered notable service in several epidemics and catastrophes. In 1849 when the smallpox broke out, many patients were treated in the Mercy Hospital as there was then no pest house. In 1854 another cholera epidemic visited Pittsburgh and the Mercy Hospital again received patients until many were compelled to sleep on the floor. Male nurses fled for their lives but the sisters remained at their post. In the smallpox epidemic of 1872 the Mercy Hospital again cared for those stricken with the disease. During the Civil War many soldiers were cared for at the Mercy Hospital. It rendered great assistance during the Johnstown flood in 1888.

The Passavant Hospital was founded in 1848 by Rev. W. S. Passavant, whose name is honored in Pittsburgh as a philanthropist. This institution was conducted by Protestant deaconesses from Kaisersworth, Germany, where Florence Nightingale received her early training.

## PIONEER MEDICINE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The West Penn Hospital was chartered in 1847 and opened in 1848, and until 1855 it received insane patients as well as medical and surgical cases. In this latter year, at the suggestion of Miss Dorothea Dix, a site was chosen on the Ohio River and a building erected for the insane. Dr. Joseph A. Reed was placed in charge of this institution. It is doing useful work to the present day.

St. Francis Hospital was organized in 1865, and like the West Penn Hospital receives mental and nervous cases and serves a very useful purpose in the community. Its psychopathic department is modern and complete.

There has been a very large development in hospitals in the last thirty years, and plans are on foot now calling for the erection of buildings which require the expenditure of more than \$10,000,000. The chief hospitals besides those mentioned are at present the Children's Hospital, St. John's Hospital, St. Margaret's, Montefiore, St. Joseph's, Southside Eye and Ear Hospital, Magee Hospital and Allegheny General.

### MEDICAL SCHOOL

In one of the Pittsburgh newspapers for 1848 the suggestion was made that there



REV. WILLIAM A. PASSAVANT, D.D.  
FOUNDER OF THE PASSAVANT HOSPITAL.





FIRST BUILDING OF THE PASSAVANT HOSPITAL, 1851.



should be a medical school in Pittsburgh. At the meeting of the Bedford Medical Society at the office of Dr. James King, January 26, 1865, Dr. Andrew Fleming read a notable paper calling for the organization of a medical school in Pittsburgh. Evidently the Society was greatly impressed with Dr. Fleming's paper, for it voted that it should be published in the *Commercial Journal*. Actually the first medical school was founded in 1886. The original building, until recently occupied, was erected on Brereton Avenue near 28th Street, adjoining the West Penn Hospital, where the fullest teaching facilities were granted the school.

In 1895 the school adopted a four year course, and in 1908 it became by purchase an integral part of the Western University of Pennsylvania, which institution about the same time changed its name to the University of Pittsburgh.

The school at present contemplates the erection of a large general hospital. An enlarged and well-appointed Children's Hospital adjoining the school has just been completed and occupied; the new Presbyterian Hospital, which will be a large and modern plant, will soon be erected in the same

vicinity; the new Eye and Ear Hospital will, a little later, form part of this notable group. The School is one which is in the A class and is a credit alike to the University of Pittsburgh and the whole community of Western Pennsylvania. Beginning in a small and uncertain way, the School has now attained a secure position and its permanency and future are well assured.



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